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Acceptance

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Acceptance

for Donall

by Steven Pelcman

His frail body rises and saunters
to the sounds of Irish wind
over the bog stumbling at 4AM
without a care in the dark

to the bathroom
with a thankful lingering sigh
and whiskey-mumbling lips
still clinging to the last round.

He clears his throat
as if rehearsing for a final song
and returns to the dark
hallway and the stale smell

of his pipe that guides him
to the right room,
to where his wife had belonged,
to where her outline remains,

but it is the unexpected prayers
afterwards that breach
the joint bedroom wall
and take even the darkness

by surprise, and yet
how alike they are,
still, alone, godly, patient
for the first single thread of light.

