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A Grammar

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A Grammar

Being is a brief sentence;
Carboned on the mind,
Places observed through the skin,
Exquisite transient shapes
As quickly spilled in
The eye's fluid.

The punctuation from birth-bed to love-bed;
Dash, comma, semicolon;
Qualifying clauses, parallel constructions,
Personal pronouns, you and I,
Reading always from left to
Concluding right.
Voices may not be held in the hand.
Meet me at the point where
The language bends.

The rehearsal of death in dreams.
Heroic gestures,
Adjectives of terror,
Puzzled adverbials,
Slowly in a white tiled room,
Hard mattress for dying.
And the unpunctuated ideal
A firelit familiar bedroom
Loving faces
But any way you mark it
Ends in a single black point;
A period, a full stop.

—*J.M. Byles*