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The Recipe for Sad Dotage

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Carrington: The Recipe for Sad Dotage

THE RECIPE FOR SAD DOTAGE

Patrick Carrington

Beneath the apartments of Gravesend
at the hot height of summer,
if you were an old man
you sat on the sidewalk in shirtsleeves
and talked blood and sport as you
dabbed your forehead with a handkerchief—

your armpits were waterfalls two-toning
your shirt, your liquid medicine
of espresso and anisette
on a table beside you. In 1967

you were a decade without the Dodgers,
two without the stink of death,
and still you mourned
all the missing blue-eyed boys.

Baseball and war were magic
tricks gone wrong,
heavy things you carried with you
up the staircase of your life

to its soft tar roof, to lament
with the shadow
stuck to the bottom of your feet.