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# The Trouble with Spring

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MARK HALPERIN

*The Trouble with Spring*

The warmth is welcome, the green seeping into  
stems, chickadees drilling the air  
with their staccato nonsense. There's no harm  
in any of that. Even the gnats, like pepper  
on the wall, are only annoying. But the lack of blue

sky, the pall of clouds, that constant lead-  
gray above, sloping my shoulders, the weight of time  
bending and pulling, oppress me. It's all in your head,  
you say, but if so, the shadows inside are still outside  
like a burden, and intolerable—no breaking free

of the self, no integrity to subject  
object distinctions. Thank God spring's not stubborn,  
even if that requires the same of fall.  
I reject sameness, blurred edges. Let other people  
and clear skies flourish, worlds beside our own

for escaping to and through: windows, back doors.  
Maybe spring's not so bad, and anticipation  
is a kind of heightening delay to be pleased  
by when it ends abruptly as with a gun  
shot—which is not to say I want more.