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Afterthought for Stefan

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Afterthought

for Stefan

When the angel calls
will you be ready
or will you be in the condo
by the water's edge, sun
peeping over the horizon,
wind five knots out of the south,
an easy breeze and the light
getting brighter in the eastern sky
then it hits you, slowly at first
and in a way
you don't quite understand—
a tightening in your chest,
difficulty drawing the next breath.
Your mind on so many things:
your son looking for work,
your other son finding work
that you know is just
one small step
in his life plan, and your wife
of all these years in the kitchen
brewing a fresh pot, humming softly
to herself.
In an instant the earthly life
you've grown
to appreciate, to love actually
in its many shapes and forms,
slips away.

-Marc Swan
Portland, Maine