

# Studio One

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## Stars

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## Stars

Not the eyes, only the blinking:  
just faces turning back for goodbyes,  
then floating down the jetway—

not massive spheres of gas  
exterminating themselves  
with millennia of longing.

As a child I could believe them  
moth-holes in the velvet veil  
that shuttered heaven's shine.

Then they were the diamond set  
for all the love in the world,  
every brace of teenage lovers

the whirling binary pair.  
Now they're the running lights  
of ships bearing hard away

to nowhere, never too slowly,  
but never fast either, only  
the fitting speed for stars and ships

which never quite speak but,  
for all their wordy flickering,  
keep their dark insistent silence.

-William Jolliff  
Newberg, OR