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Cold Comfort

There is a comfort in shortening days,
in dark-at-five and damp roads shining.
Rain on the window whispers permission
to bolt the door and let the curtains sigh
along the rail. Outside, the pressure's low
and the moon's demands are muffled
in cloud. A rose bush, straggled with age,
taps at the glass and an ill-fitted door
knocks a little, now and again.
It's not quite cold enough to light the fire
but I'll do it anyway, lay the kindling
across paper, rattle coal from the scuttle,
wait for the crackle and draw. Nothing
is happening, no-one is calling
and I'm glad of the night, the rain.