AFTER SURGERY, MY WIFE HELPS ME INTO THE GARDEN WHERE I SIT FOR SOME LITTLE TIME BROODING ON MY PRESENT SITUATION

JAY HOPLER

On the red maple and the winged elm
The sun is setting, while on the spider flower
And Vietnamese hollyhock, the rising
Moon is just starting to throw its thin

And watery light. Two mockingbirds
Are stitching a nest together in the branches of a bottlebrush
tree. A squadron of
Dragonflies is darning the darkening

Yard. No—, that's not right. The dragon-
Flies are darning *the air above* the darkening
Yard, closing up the holes the light is
Leaving. This greensward no suture

Requires. It's whole and whole shall
It remain—, even as it disappears beneath a sweep of weak
moonlight, beneath
The dark drape of the night's arrival.

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