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## Without Benefit of Atlas

Rick Newby

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*Without Benefit of Atlas*

for Bill (&amp; for Karl)

Your son awakens you.  
Your son teaches  
words how to dance.  
Your son laughs without ceasing  
at your folly, father.  
Your son describes the world  
without benefit of atlas.  
Your son's precision  
frightens the timid.  
Your son rages against the dark.  
Your son follows politics  
with a jaded air.  
Your son has begun to read.  
Your son plays the pedal steel.  
Your son sees the transparency  
of all earthly things.  
Your son has his pride.  
Your son looks for signs  
at every turning.  
Your son shuffles the deck.  
Your son embodies stillness.  
Your son, irrepressible,  
scandalizes his peers.  
Your son embraces his small life,  
and you, his father, awaken.

*Rick Newby*