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Recollections of a Photograph

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Recollections of a Photograph

After working until dark
with three boys, who were really
men as big as haystacks,
the four of us drove
to the ranch, the headlights freezing rabbits
we had to swerve
to miss. At the house
in an old photo a man leaned
against the wall. Hard to believe
that he was once as full
of flesh as those boys,
who made the floors creak when they walked.
Nameless, he'd become flat
as the flowers between the pages
of the book pressed
in the couch, and his eyes
were fixed as if by something
that would not swerve.

Mervin Mecklenburg