

it was only logical to look him up
in Brooklyn
except he wasn't there
a neighbor told me which hospital
it was major surgery
but he was back home
to see me off
he leaned into the car window & kissed me
unlike 7 years before
the tears were right there & unexpected
it didn't change a damn thing between us
the Miles Davis quintet of 1961
burns up the room
with their very special version of So What?

PUT TO THE TEST

he didn't stack up too well
13 years after his death
I buy a Dunkin Donuts calendar
the founder of that company
was a friend of the family
I read the little sketch about him
& think of my father
& how little
he was able to manage
before he failed
as a husband
as a business man
as a father
but not as a person
people loved him
he was so charming apparently
I was there
at the end
his friends were devoted
I could only wonder
if they weren't in worse shape
than he ever was

— John Levin

Cambridge MA