

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