

For C

The doctor dilated your eyes
and the dumped bedframe in the alley
shined otherworldly white:
all love-work and dream-weight radiating
out at once

not at once
the next day the pale caterpillar
softening the toothed edge
of a leaf your eyes my eyes shined again
with that light

elderhand
elderhand

scare quotes burned off

Memento

Table too small for
our argument doomed and stupidly
persistent

I had to admit Anger
is here in the room

before I
could smell again
the smoky lilac of the extinguished
candle or see

your eyes
as our lips
touched

reflecting the glow-
in-the-dark plastic skeleton our son
left there on our nightstand