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Another Good Morning

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Still

Another Good Morning

Across the room, the dog's chest swells and sinks
like the Mediterranean on a blue and windless day.

Her snoring hums both alto and bass, and the thin
snare rolling beneath suggests a rest that's ocean deep.

The rain drums a soft stroll on the roof, and I sit alone
with the dog, wrapped in a sea-green fleece, reading

Pavese and watching January's choir of sparrows gather
in the drizzle to assail a meddling hawk. Their early

industry does not embarrass me into action or coax
more than a stretch in the rocking chair. I'm hiking

a vineyard above Santo Stefano Belbo, and the wind
in the grapes sounds like the breath of a sleeping hound.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR *Philip Belcher '82 is the vice president of programs for The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina in Asheville and the author of a chapbook, The Flies and Their Lovely Names, from Stepping Stones Press. A graduate of Furman, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Duke University School of Law, he also has an MFA in poetry from Converse College and is the recipient of the Porter Fleming Prize in poetry. Belcher's work has appeared in numerous journals. The above poem originally appeared in Valparaiso Poetry Review, volume XIII, Number 1, Fall/Winter 2011–2012.*