Late Garden

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Recommended Citation
Allen, Gilbert and Bright, Terri (2014) "Late Garden," Furman Magazine: Vol. 57 : Iss. 2 , Article 36.
Available at: https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol57/iss2/36

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Late Garden

Long since cleared
and mulched with leaves
from Bradford pears,
the garden still grieves—

or seems to grieve
from our upstairs window
this Christmas Eve.
Why should sorrow

fill this fallow,
rain-soaked place
and time, to harrow
mere empty space?

Only to trace
right there, below,
on barren grace,
imagined snow.

—Gilbert Allen