

Mid-night, wooded lot

For JB and TL

the animal, whatever animal
bear cub, raccoon?

a porcupine
its coat sharpened spears

in the dark brush
past night's middle, I approach

some low scraping animal
alert along the outhouse path

whatever animal: desire

in the blood
of night, a predator –

silent in its keys of sound

shadow
incidental, hesitant, roused

animal, whatever animal
hunched, roving,
whispers

to the absent light, the forest,
fear's blurred eye

what moves, moves