

1983

After Midnight

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Recommended Citation

Barrington, Richard G. (1983) "After Midnight," *The Angle*: Vol. 1983: Iss. 1, Article 7.
Available at: <http://fisherpub.sjfc.edu/angle/vol1983/iss1/7>

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After Midnight

Cover Page Footnote

Appeared in the issue: 1983.

AFTER MIDNIGHT

The girl I danced with
has left me
Red Badges

 of lipstick,
elusive souvenirs.
Lingering perfume
hangs like tired flowers,
their glory past them,
to be pressed in the pages

 of a soul.

When all the colors fade to brown,
and what was tender now is brittle,
my heart will still remember springtime
 — it was last year. I was younger—
with the mad blossom of flowers whose
scent
I tried to embrace. . .
But the perfume grows weaker;
I can not hold it,
I can not keep it from fading away.

Richard G. Barrington