There is a dark fear in me...

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to Christine

you look out a window
and into another
and you look out that window
but you see another window this time
and there’s always another window
and if you look closely
and can see through all that glass
you can make out a vague image
of a girl running

by Tron

There is a dark fear in me
That the brightest of our young ripe
Pleasure cannot cure.

On those black nights
When I toss tired, sick, road wearily,
I fear that fast approaching sleep.

When I might meet
A tireless guardian
Whose towering self-righteous hand

Might not pause this time
To keep me where I am,
Or pass to let me in.

FRAN MURPHY

Septuagesemna

Lyric for a Lent

"memento"

Night’s soft corners rock me, rock me
Warm and dreamless in its arms.
And this earth
That cradles soft in crisp autumn
Sings dry of leaves, whispers in the still air,
Heavy with the scent of soil, untilled, waiting.
Oh my pale Christ, dimly lighting this land,
Tracing across the sky every image,
Every rounded corner of this strange rest
Yet never reflecting here my presence.
Give answer to my prayer. What is this night.
Burning so within me that my hands, warm,
Should press so eager in these quiet shadows
For secrets, long ago remembered,
And with each breath draw in such troubling love.

JOHN VERBASI

FRAN MURPHY: There is a dark fear in me...

EASTER 1966

The German found the body
And the Pope cancelled Easter
But the chocolate industry protested
So Hallmark made “Spring Benny Day”
And Jesus never became the hero.
Other than that, the routine remained unbroken.
Except
a few men
stopped
having children.

FRAN MURPHY

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