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## At Last

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SHARON BRYAN

*At Last*

At last, a reason  
not to want to live

forever: the stars  
are winking out,

apparently, although  
it won't be apparent

to most of us any time  
soon, one here,

one there, it will be  
eons before noticeable

holes appear in Orion's  
belt, for example, or

the Water-Bearer's  
bucket, but just knowing

they're going out e-  
ventually, who would

want to stay on  
under what will become

an unpunctuated  
sky, just a few faint grains

of light, too few to make  
anything of, nothing

to wish on, hitch  
our wagons to, nothing

to lift us out of ourselves,  
no pinpricks of hope

in our black box, no reason  
to stay, no place to go.