

The Nurses Will Not Listen to You Speak About Work

Thursday, May 25 and Friday May 26, 2006 1:59 PM

What is it for you to be onerous after surgery,
when memory returns to choler, the moaning shape
of the pachysandra in a groundskeeper's work hours,
awareness of the tubes, the sedated pitch of daylight?

More medication, morphine makes you less conscious
of the stalled earthmovers in your shoulders, ignore
the sound of lawn mowers trimming where you are
chopfallen, the vascular trenches you did not dig.

Now, lay down in the white warmth, be a veteran,
widower, a johnny-coated octogenarian. Rest awhile -
grandfather among the flowers, touch them even,
with your sundry callouses before you are released.

- *Brockton, MA*