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Paddington's Restless Night

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Paddington's Restless Night

by Jakob Chapman

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Marmalade digits
push the icebox door
closed
extinguishing the light

half-past midnight
the anthropomorphic insomniac
scarfs a sandwich
listening as Mr. Brown
begins to snore

bear feet
patter up the steps—
creep beside the bed
sticky paw
slipping over the nose
the mustached mouth
quenching the noise
the body growing
deathly still
under the weight

he gathers his
slouch hat
situates it tight
between his keen ears—
waking no one
with the creaking door

trying so hard
to get things
right.