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It Ended Quietly

by Austin Rory Hackett

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He always imagined saying something memorable at the end,
something that his children would carry with them
and repeat to their children in a bedside moment.

But instead, the last thing he did before he died
was notice the leaves outside his window
and how when the wind blew

they would cross back and forth over a beam of light
that hit his wall through a slit in the curtain
and make a bright spot fade in and out.

It's like Morse code
he thought to himself.