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Electric Dryer Breakdown

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Electric Dryer Breakdown



I lay away sunned, fragrant laundry—
chapped terry, chafed cotton, crisp sheets
billowing bannered from clean bones of clothespins
appointed the occasion.

We tighten the tarnished clothesline
sprung slack by the machine
that spat a hundred feet of drainpipe
into rubble-running sores
scoring our country yard and pasture.

Arising early, eagerly I meet
dismantled day of breakdown
free from spongy scented cycled
interruption in the daily treaded tumbled round.
This day no vented exhalation
breathes our evergreens warmly dead.

And so I fold cooled linens,
sent gladdened like tidings
from far fond sun
danced home by maternal winds.

Caroline P. M. West