

## Monday 7 a.m.

### One of Five Pieces

Malcolm Parker

Received: 5 November 2013 / Accepted: 5 December 2013 / Published online: 17 May 2014  
© Springer Science+Business Media Dordrecht 2014

I found a man  
in a room  
sprawl awkward  
at a dying angle  
ticking  
at his bed's end  
at his life's end  
past the end of his wits  
and his wife's  
in a room  
round the end of their lives.

He trembled his vows again  
held his cachectic belle  
past her life's end  
their last toast the mercy kill.

I found him  
ticking slowly  
she cold  
delivered  
waiting on his life.

His survival  
obliging inquiry  
of motive  
of method  
I hurried  
him off to her  
gentlest of homicides.

Two mounds in a room, cooling  
past fear, post suicide.

---

M. Parker (✉)  
School of Medicine, University of Queensland,  
Brisbane, Australia  
e-mail: mfmparke@somc.uq.edu.au