

# *Of Course, Loss*

*from a line by Mary Oliver*

Of course, loss is the lesson  
we remember -- who leaves and  
does not return: what the wind  
takes and does not bring back: where  
the sun goes. Stand and complain,  
if you wish -- it does no good.

Days march away. Nights close  
like the dark flowers they are.  
Your loneliness cannot be  
shared. Your grief is your own.

Some small pulse of lingering  
hope is what we have in common,  
that and what we all remember.

*Tom Montag*