

FROM A HALF-FILLED CUP

When he left last night
as quickly as he kissed me on the cheek
some numbness settled over me,
like a cover on a drowsy child,
until this morning
when I cleared the dishes from the dinner table.
His half-filled cup must have
brought the evening back, must have held him,
like some spirit in a magic lamp,
so when I touched the rim, my finger circling
the way a child rubs a crystal glass
to bring the hidden music out,
I thought about his lips, his saliva
in the milky dregs,
and before I carried it to the sink to pour it out—
for a moment, only for a moment—
I thought of drinking
those cold dregs, of drinking more
than what he hadn't,
and of the odd desire
to take that fluid's darkness on my tongue—
a kind of kiss, but colder.