

MARTHA COLLINS

Their Work

These are the ones who don't
lie down. Not yet. Not yet lying

down is what they do, and it
is not easy, it is their work,

it is what they have to do, all
day, day after day. Sometimes

of course they eat and there
is the subsequent work of waste.

And at night, like everyone else,
they lie down and sleep appears,

no different from ours. That is not
work, though their dreams, like ours,

may make the work of the day
more difficult, may even become

the work of the day, the work
they sometimes wish they had to do.

For there is no work more difficult
than theirs, sitting and waiting.