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Before an Equinox, I Sit on the Deck

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and the season feels suspended. We will see whether
this golden light thrown across
the grass bifurcates the day
so much darkness here so much there

or, is the weight on the scale
that tilts us all toward heavy frost, snow

For now
a waxing moon appears among the clouds, as a cloud
boys cheer on their ball carrier to a field goal
and the crimson flounce of the Mandevilla blossom runs in yellow
pleats to its own center

but there is
my son tugging at his too-short flannel sleeves as he leaves
a funnel spider's layered mats of detritus: a darkened blossom,
a bundle of five brittle needles, the yellowed leaf
and clusters of ants hanging in the clear nectar
absent hummingbirds forgot

GLYNIS BENBOW-NIEMIER

