

# In Late October

by Harry Brown

*“respice finem”* (“Regard the end,” Latin)  
—engraved on Ivan Ilyich’s fob chain

*for Deana*

the maple near our backdoor stoop  
yawns and celebrates in reds  
and yellows months of rest to come,  
while hemlock lies in low patches  
of lacy green burgeoning  
scattered along Paint Lick Pike  
pretending Spring—whispering,  
“See? Don’t worry—there’s only sleep.  
No dying, no decease.”