

1985

Syndrome

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Syndrome

I could write you now
of men whose blood has turned
against them and runs the other way
while they lie thinly between hospital sheets
submitting to uncommon colds
and rare carcinomas because now
they have no choice,

But outside their friends hustle under cover
of a darkness they think protects them,
slamming bodies they don't know and booze
together in a formula that isn't what they want
but what they have, ignoring the warnings
as if they were just more cops
to avoid. And this is where

the disease is.

Jeff Masten