



TINNITUS

This non-musical ringing in my ears
cicada sound,
gets lost inside the noisy day.

Distraction ends when I am with myself;
The din grows louder,
construction site, machinery.
It doesn't leak into conversation with others,
stymie daily doings.

But at night my auditory companion grows insistent
and, lying on my pillow,
the lights out,
the house already creaking in repose,
I mouth my nightly orison:

"I'm trying to sleep—
Would you please be quiet in there?"

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