

The Mortuary's Cots

Zachary Reneau

They say the dead appear to be sleeping,
But I've yet to see a man sleep in a coffin,
Never saw a still chest on a sleeping woman.
There are no end tables in funeral homes,
Loaded with a sleeper's arsenal -
Kleenex, a glass of water, maybe some Nyquil.
I've never watched a mortician read a story to their victims before
putting them to bed
(Although I'll bet they would like the Cat in the Hat.)
They didn't bury my grandfather in teddy bear pajamas,
And thankfully, no lines of people form to watch me slumber.
I don't visit my grandmother every night at two AM
To ensure she has enough topsoil to keep warm.