

JANUARY 2021 (4 AM)

It's been so long since I
have slept

Almost a year

Instead—I stay up until my eyes fall closed
Like a toddler
Fighting until I become asleep
Wherever I am

Usually after dinner
Lights full on cozy on the couch
With a blanket
The old dog
Kids laughing or bickering or coloring

Safe

But when the house is quiet
And everyone but I
Breathing
Rhythmically

I can't coax myself past
Pandemic

I can't rest past the repetition
Knees on necks
Bullets in beds
Cross spurring coup

I'm old and I'm afraid I'm
Bitter

Because I wish I was
Surprised

Maybe I am standing watch?

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