On Finding a Slim Volume

(For John Conger, PhD)

I've done it again, John, failing
to pay attention to what seemed
a side issue.
Who knew the Dean wrote poetry,
And if he did—
  while managing a medical campus—
how important
  it might be?
I found out ... too late,
that you were a close observer
of the silence of snow, a lover
of the sudden red, who could discover
the shape of your
life laid bare.
I imagine the conversations we might have had,

    Forgive me.

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