

Nightwalk

Following trails at night, the moonlit
broken blades of grasses telling
where something or other recently passed

Giving wide berth to shrubs and litter
for fear of getting snagged on a thorn
or bitten by a camouflaged rattlesnake

Or breaking the delicate spell of silence
by scaring up a rabbit or bird
who thought she had settled in for the night

I think of my nearest neighbor saying
last time we talked —which we didn't often,
even before the last election—

we weren't here for the company
so one good thing about it is
you don't run into people much.