

Clochard

by [Cristina Nehring](#) (April 2025)



Bright Light at Russell's Corners (George Ault, 1946)

The night
has taken his day
into its mouth
and swallowed it.

No more streams of light
in the debris of dark
he crushes under his
foot like glass.

The sun has set
by the time he wakes;
it's not yet up
when he falls down.

He wonders where
the day went,
the joy that steels us
for the grief of age,

the silence that comes
before the storm.
He can't remember it,
as he stumbles

faceless through the
folds of dusk.
The low beams
of a lost Renault,

The fly-flecked
streetlamps (like
egg yolks with
pepper), the piss-

colored halo
around a filling
station are all the
sun he knows.

[Table of Contents](#)

Cristina Nehring's most recent book is *The Child Who Never*

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