

January 2012

After Work

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Recommended Citation

Fanelli, Brian (2012) "After Work," *Harpur Palate: a Literary Journal*: Vol. 11: Iss. 2, Article 18.
Available at: <https://orb.binghamton.edu/harpurpalate/vol11/iss2/18>

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Fanelli: After Work

AFTER WORK

BRIAN FANELLI

He walks the length
of old coal mining streets
under a star-washed dome
after another 12-hour shift with no overtime
pay, ears still ringing from the clanging
of factory machines he stood at all day
until his muscles burned.
His soot-crustied boot kicks the curb outside
the Rusty Nail Bar, where a woman
rejected him after she noticed
his grease-stained jeans and the smudges
his dirty calloused hands left on beer mugs.
Now he stumbles home and hopes
someone will uncurl his fists as he sleeps.