



Moving Out

BAB

For my mother

ELSIE LEE PEARSON BRANNON



4 JULY 1932

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It's hard to leave the digs
in order
after all these years.

It's hard to make sure things
get packed up
and sent on ahead.

And it's hard to clean house
well enough
to please the landlord.

You fasten down the lid
of each box,
securing the contents.

Find forgotten treasures
underneath
the sofa cushions.

Reluctantly pass on
possessions
to those who stay behind.

Dust, in the final days,
the baseboards
that have stood concealed.

You finish one last meal
from what's left
in the old icebox.

Then on the goodbye day
look around:
the end you've come to

was never meant to be
a stopping
but a moving on

EXPLICAT SEMPER VICTUM IN MORTU=
UM IN VICTUM SEMPER EXPLICAT

Living unfolds ever into
dying unfolds ever
into living



Of an edition of 64 copies,
this is number

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