

## NAUTICAL MILES

I wouldn't call it a rupture;  
it was too gradual for that.  
More a misunderstanding  
that wasn't spoken about  
before she moved away

because I wasn't positive  
it was a misunderstanding  
and didn't want to confront  
and create one at the same  
time. Besides, I figured

we'd meet again the way  
we always had, but didn't  
expect to turn into such a  
homebody, unwilling to go  
downtown even when she

came to town. So our lives  
passed, and it's over thirty  
years since I saw her, ten  
times the years I knew her,  
ten times the lost chances.

We don't know or want to  
time's breadth and danger  
while in the midst of it  
any more than we do  
the ocean's.