

The widow is given whiskey  
as witnesses vie for attention.  
Neighbors shout up a party,

hound to earth  
the winded assassin, and contrive  
his roped, kicking death.

Their part  
completed, they turn home to bed, to sleep.  
Their women lie unscreaming in the dark.

## ROBERT R. FOX

### *Today*

you do not know who you are  
this is strange it has not happened  
to you in 10 years  
you knew who you were at breakfast  
on your way to work  
when your car skidded  
again & again across the bridge  
you arrived at work  
safely though late  
you did not realize it  
until one & then another  
asked after your wife  
calling her by name  
& then after your newborn son  
whom they heard had not been well  
you told them he was fully recovered  
had gained 3 pounds  
then you realized you had no son  
you are a bachelor  
many years  
before the last time it happened  
but you aren't a bachelor anymore  
they asked after your wife  
by another name  
your car skidded again  
& again across the bridge  
you arrived at work  
safely though late