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A Half Wave

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Francesco Scarabicchi

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Will Schutt translating *Francesco Scarabicchi*

A Half Wave

You choose who goes, who doesn't stay
past dinner and with modest discretion
bids goodbye without a word,
giving a half wave, the gesture
established long ago and kept secret.
He was like that. At least I remember him that way,
rising to stand, eyes on the door already,
smiling politely as if in a dream,
leaving that room and a city,
hardly aware of his own face.