

Gregg Shapiro

Insomnia

In bed, at night, on crisp, patterned sheets,
I dream of sleep. Eyes wide open, body tense
as a wire. I count and recount all the sheep
in the yard. Say goodnight to every part
of my anatomy that I can name. I recall
the events of the day, swallow them as if
they were some kind of narcotic, sleeping

potion. Snippets of conversation play over
in my head; edited, polished, grammatically
correct. But the words are no lullaby, only
manage to keep sleep at bay. As a last-ditch
effort, I try to fool sleep. Eyeballs rolled
up, rapidly moving behind eyelids that
snap open like window shades.

Gregg Shapiro is the author of seven books. An expanded reissue of his short story collection *How to Whistle* is forthcoming from Rattling Good Yarns Press in 2021. Recent publications include *Limp Wrist, ...journalist*, whose interviews and reviews run in a variety of regional LGBTQ+ and mainstream publications and websites, Shapiro lives in Fort Lauderdale, Florida with his husband Rick and their dog Coco.