

## Dirty Old Man Talks to Himself in the Dark

I've had great uncles, he says to himself.

I've had great uncles and great great-uncles.

Tío Pepe taught me to be who I am.

The last time I saw him he was in the Catholic hospital  
flirting with the nurse before lapsing into a coma.

Tío Mike taught me that a dirty old man  
doesn't need to behave like a dirty old man.

The last time I saw him he was mixing a martini.

Tío Pedro taught me to hang on beyond madness.

The last time I saw him I didn't really see him:  
only the glowing tip of his cigar, a firefly.

I never saw him, them, again—in the flesh,  
because I'm seeing them now, just as they were  
the last time, not the last time, I saw them.

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