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On the Beara Peninsula

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On the Beara Peninsula

by Matthew Brennan

For Bev

I sit here sipping a Sonoma Merlot
in southwest Ireland, taking in the view:

The sun has set the coast on fire, cresting
a hill of broken rocks and fuchsia hedges,

and Coulagh Bay's a luminous blue.
Beyond, the Atlantic tends to black,

so soon the fields will steep in night,
will mark what's missing, what's lost beneath

the starless sky on land and sea.

Yet out my window
gnats are basking in a golden haze—

hanging in mid-air. So I do what can be done:
Hold up my cup to the light, while the light lasts.



Photo courtesy pbs.org

