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LOOKING FOR THOSE FLUSH COLORS OF YOUTH —BASED ON A NEWS ITEM

by Edward C. Lynskey

Tonight every lady in the Cream City
goes up to the attic carrying a lamp,
looking for a lost, lesser painting
by Van Gogh. It seems a spinster on
the early evening news found locked in
a cherry chest of mothballs and Caruso

records a masterpiece signed with "V,"
a still life of starry mums and fiery
poppies prized high into the millions.
Ladies look in every crack and crevice
they know, but don't love, from their
housekeeping. It's not pasted behind

the old vanity mirror. It's not swept
under brussels sprouts carpets. Who is
this Van Gogh every lady shakes castle
inside out, seeking as a stray hairpin?
Will they find the mad spark that was
once theirs to have lost in a portrait?