

Everything Spoken Is Preserved

The last one he saw was Smith
he didn't know Smith that well
certainly not the person he would have chosen

to share his last living words with
but that's who he bumped into
Smith

a kind of lost guy
wandering out
of a public toilet

how is it that the last conversation
the one he might have reserved
for someone significant

at the terminal seam in his life
should be had with Smith
who told him about a tickling

in his foot
I'm going to see the doctor today
Smith said

those were the last words he heard
last thought they didn't seem nearly holy enough
until now

James Stone Goodman