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Tomorrow's Living Room

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CAPITALISM AS COMEUPPANCE

Alternate Tuesdays he tolls in the office
with the modest manners of the metered at work.
Why not withered? —and worn from lunches
of saltlicks and sandbars in the sunlit cafe,
the breath a capstone of bright fatigue
and the elevator vanishing at five
a trick of the light. It's labeled unfit
and filed in the drawer by "fever-pitched,"
near the quartered starts of the quieted few,
even their torture not their own. The tic of the eye
becomes all the talk: how terrible, they say,
how terrible that we in the towers and visions
whistle no longer and still watch the clock.