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Tomorrow's Living Room

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ON THE TAKE

I had the last undertaker in my pocket.
He owed more than one can make
undertaking, and had agreed, in principle,
to a sort of indentured servitude.

*

Nine times out of ten, someone says
you have the last of something
and you don't, really. Just the second-to-last,
or it's unique this side of the ocean,
but in China every younger sister is wearing one.

*

The last undertaker? In my pocket.
He had that problem where the teeth
rattle and the stones stick to the flesh.

*

The undertaker's to-do list:
Wear black on Sunday.
Empty the gazebo in the rain.
Bury the dead.