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Neck of the World

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TOYHOUSE

A freckled pair of newts
lay dead as trespassers
in the circular kitchen—
ochre fronds open, gills
to a heavens of balsa.

A fly gleams once,
metal green in the attic
with clear stomach hooks,
a tube for glands
and an eye each for us

leveled at our lives,
wooden as we are
and as empty. If only
a little lawn, we think, and
soil hungry under floor—

that we could drop
downward through the rift
to the places longed for:
surgery of slow dirt,
the hues marigolds shed

candled in the earth,
this faith in black thumbs
of lava heaving matter
into pigeons of smoke,
webbed bodies sighted

as pulsing points of coal,
tailbones set like rubies
in dust's sane display.

The core, its nearness—
the killing heat cures us.