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Neck of the World

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RADIO

The hum attracts, and just
beyond my ribcage, some old hags
try cooing, flattening
their voices sheer as metal,
chanting the word *magnify*
once, then twice, and on
and on. Then it's *baby*
they sing like this, again, again
and again, hoping that it,
above all others, will gain entry—
the ribs, as they imagine them,
unlocking, my body
in a landslide backwards
and the secret dens laid bare
as late autumn—but
the chest holds. The hags
change the word to *shit*,
a syllable chugging slowly off.
The women become static.
The women become flies.
I breach lightly in my sleep.
This lake shines, is bottomless.

