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Neck of the World

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HELMET IN THE GLADE

I looked beneath:
grass kept the head's impression.
The water I stooped to
was once muscle, organ,
and the body gone missing watched
everywhere: mistook
for shackles and coal the feral
brood of roaches
bursting from the thicket I pushed
blindly through.
My foot gave a knock on that armor
meant for rough
while the alder bed I left
jumped behind me in the wind.
Slow miles of chase and hunger
in the wooded heaven
and I'll never know who turned
the other sick.