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## Neck of the World

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## MANE AND CLAW

My dear sisters: how the scent  
of half-life spins continual  
from our voices like talk,  
and the body carnival dumbs

down to calcite: reflective  
segments of hair and nail  
in us. When the sink drains  
the first of me to hear it

is my stomach—the rust  
flying through me like sparrows,  
weird marrow nearly dead,  
the goat-mask of factory work.

What is stolen from one is  
stolen still from another. What  
lows in the murk wants, wild and  
staring, to pull us enjoyably down.

The fact of night is such:  
it breaks. The fact of women  
and men is this: the struggle out.  
And the struggle out: it breaks.