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Neck of the World

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HUMAN

She limps down the mountain:
pair of hole-ridden feet
clapping leathered mouths on rock.
A button of green wrestles
among exploding coal mounds
and shrivels. She stares at stones
as they flock into liquid,
surveys her isle of blisters
and congregating gas clouds.
The last bird she saw (a blue jay,
a blue jay!) attacked her.
Four thousand years south
where the mudslides of Peru
once hardened over jungle expanse,
the green sleeve, the green ladle,
the green wound, the green teeth
are dusking in the metal dirt
while her lungs like pears rot inward.
Some light lies deviled beneath.
Some worlds won't arc again.