Neck of the World

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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.