Neck of the World

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CRESTED DAUGHTER

The daughter of a father
who was the son of a father
whose great, great grandmother
was a blue jay
scraping along a rusty girder
not far from where this page’s
mother tree was drawn and laid
like a ship toward the end
of daylight—storm
of boot heels, the bleating of saws,
and all through the earth
the genus slandered the flat homily
of bodies—their one wish:
to abandon the shape,
the formlessness of a shape,
which is why the earth can
be concerned only with this last
blue jay, her harsh squawk,
her color—white under throat, sky
back, the bird gun-sized,
fitting cries above the fires,
tucking her feet under, in.