Where She Always Was

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Published by Utah State University Press

Lindsay, Frannie.
Where She Always Was.
Project MUSE. muse.jhu.edu/book/10428.

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REMAINS

Before the dog died, the vet took away
eight of his teeth. I’d have kept
each one, had I known
how soon the rest of him would go.
I’d have made a box for them
of his empty ribcage: God’s
hand unhinged, stroking a head.
I’d have kept them
on my dresser, where instead
he looks straight
at me: black and white
of a still lens. He doesn’t like
being dead. It’s hard work
being the strong cloud
that stays the same.
Hard for him, not making a sound
as ashes gust from my hands.