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# Winter Animal

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G.C. WALDREP

## *Winter Animal*

**A:** blood-bartered giftling  
or womb-harrier the river  
extols winter's one black suit  
above its tabernacle current

—single-wide bitewing  
of the edge of town, are we  
coming through clearly? are we  
broadcasting?  
this world's saline stubble

listen(s) for the flying tones  
sketched brainchantingly  
moving *through* the forest  
on fire, bluff-fire, egg- fire

in the tooth's tactile residue  
my heart is a bone-  
black wire music's bloody bell  
remembers coagulant

in this third secrecy, the large  
blue wheel of the thigh  
warming the irradiant asphalt  
this glass-nubbed thicketing

(in another dream you told me  
*the memories of swans are very*  
*brief—you must try some other way*)