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Nature of Things

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Nature of Things

1

Who's this? Small hands on large face.
Another hurricane concludes.
Will the tide ever ebb? A dandelion blooms.

Stifle me beyond these city walls. Is there another option?
Tense, the mountains tower. A catfish sifts in muck.
These leaves tear.

Shrivel me, petals. Desert takes root in this life. Peering,
yellow eyes from trunks. Whisper, reveal yourself.
This cannot be the end of things, this haunting of wolves.

In one moment of suspension, delicate lives are birthed.
The fire-ants march, restless.
Mother, return from your sleep.

Talons skim the surface. Ripples, how you destroy perfection.
The wake subsides. Do not linger, faint sky.
The wind is stale.

2

The puddles persist
deep as a wrist
and drown the tulips
as you say,
My heart's left ventricle.

I see round feet flattening soil, level soles smashing earth.
They rearrange like shovels or knives or chainsaws.
Bouncing off bruised shins, a ferocious theory.
My fingers trace you. Yesterday I crept beneath
dinner tables and kitchen counters, severing sound waves.
The fireflies abandoned me
as the forest remnants collapsed.

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A brown bush intrudes,
 corners contained.
Pigeons roost in the gutter.
 Sagging on the hillside, sunflowers.
A long arm extends.
 The whale's call fails us.

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