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## Ritual Scarification

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## RITUAL SCARIFICATION

I believe we may have met once  
just outside the skin, in all

honesty, outside the skull, pulling  
away each other's grin. Choosing

new identification resembles work.  
The man in his fishtank thinks

sometimes pennies and marbles are just  
illogical. It is swift, the movement from one chord

to the next, the background. His eyes calliope  
in and out of caves. What do you think,

officially? Orchids alternate between hands  
with many different sizes like the little sink

headed girl eating Campbell's soup, tomatoes  
crushed beneath the ash bin. All morning long

people lift toenail clippings to their  
noses and grope in a darkness

of the cottonwoods, grope for laughter. Threading  
lovers' feet onto fish-hooks they throw one

another into slow upstream holes, making  
meals from orgasm and other limitations of language.