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Paper Route

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David Watts

Paper Route

Four-thirty at 8th and Main,
stacks of Star-Telegrams
like folded parables

to speak to front yards
before they shape themselves
in sunlight. My motor scooter

shrugs the turns
as if nothing mattered
in darkness

while every girl I ever wanted
sleeps nearby with a different
schedule than mine, stolen hours

before the body walks
and starts its machinery,
a movement less from instinct

than recollection, keeping company
with wolves and grizzly flap-jack cooks
we force the day on the open end of night,

slip language into the morning.