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LYDIA MCDERMOTT

A Big Blank

I listened attentively when the world began,
but I did not hear
a Big Bang.
I did not hear a voice from heaven
“let there be ____.”
More importantly, I did not hear
your voice.
I tried to hear the lights switch
on, and the colossal faucets turn,
the leaves uncrumple like gum wrappers.

None of this I heard, nor
the choirs of angels, nor
the fish leaping from the sea
to grow legs.

I heard no footsteps.

A faint hissing crawled up into my ears,
a gasping moaning little noise
I tried to place
but it was square and the place was round
or triangular.

And then I felt my jaw aching,
for it had been holding my mouth open
to release this little sound,
the only sound I heard
that morning.