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An Exercise

William Virgil Davis

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AN EXERCISE

Color the sky blue, light blue. Add a splash of orange or purple and three birds, gulls, flying. Imagine a cabin above a steep bank. Add a heap of rocks, indiscriminate debris. Account for music, or call it that. Adjust the seasons to match your mood and wash a dull gray over everything. Add twists of seaweed, spits of sand, a waterlogged log thrown up on the shore.

You are in a boat.

The boat drifts below a cliff. You are alone in the boat. Twilight. Let the tide turn. Don't adulterate the scene with unnecessary detail. Take back the sea or the sky. Take back the cabin on the cliff. Blot out two of the gulls. Permit the one remaining gull to dive toward the water. Improvise. Have him fish. Have him catch fish or have him fail at his fishing. It makes no difference.