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Power Failure

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POWER FAILURE

Sulfur, stricken, pauses. Prescient quiet,
then today's news shrivels, coughs, consumptive;
soon a leaping blue-shoed hula hisses
wild up the flue. I bellow orange
fists of coal to burning, wait for logs
to crack and spit, turn and light a hundred
candles, keep a hive, yellow black and
humming. Wax takes to the air, my throat chokes
with a slow coat. Where did you imagine
candles go? Now I am warming, watch the
many bruising hearts chafing at the wick.
I have bent the forest, made this house mine.
Here the wax makes bees, and I begin
to live in the articulated instant
of promise, between oxygen and flame.