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Fable

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FABLE

I stepped out of the house one morning
returned to find it gone
my husband, children, gone
I told the police my house is gone
how can I get my work done?
Huddled in their blue like hunchbacks
all day, such massive energy—
the stiffening of continents like this—
(how proud to be a citizen)
They said:
accept your losses, burn your bridges
call us anytime you need.
I did the modern thing; went back to school.
Afternoons like a child insignificant before
an empty blackboard writing
YOU WERE NEVER HERE a thousand times.