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A Study in Castle Building

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A STUDY IN CASTLE BUILDING

KATIE MARSHALL

There is not an ounce of blue in my city.
Perhaps a few sad people.

With riverbed walls
and carpet deep enough to swallow entire limbs,
this is where the women in my family lost themselves.

I count lines of latitude and apathy
on the stained hardwood floor,
reminding myself what a skull sounds like
when it cracks against a kitchen sink.

My mother spent every Sunday
in the garden.
And thirty-three years
learning the right way
to gather dust.

I know she wishes we would visit more often.
I know if you lock a deadbolt enough times
it sounds like a stopping heart.