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## Aleutian Stare

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ALEUTIAN STARE

All night the cabin shook  
repeating its refusal to a wind  
that wanted everything. Now  
birds circle the false calm,  
squawk and squeal; ravens  
among settling gulls like shadows.  
Looking out I practice  
the scavenger's habit: trawlers  
on the sheared sea, cliffs,  
quonset ribs—reference points  
in the merged scenery. I've heard  
what these islands can do  
to a man's eyes. Stares of water and weather,  
as if the barrenness  
were echoing. Beside the hut  
tires, stacked and brimmed  
with soil, absorb enough sun  
for heat. Within them seedlings:  
beets, carrots, a single pea  
still thriving in the storms' interim.  
I've known the land  
by what it lacks, a kayaker  
watching the shore, sky,  
the wearing trail of a fishline's wake.  
Beneath this surface seeds  
I've cast drift  
baited and barbed with roots.