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## Cornucopia

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## Cornucopia

*In Asia powdered rhino horn is believed to be an aphrodisiac.—National Geographic*

You've wandered since late afternoon  
through thorn scrub, elephant grass,  
forests of mahogany—hooked lip stripping  
flowers from the acacia, fruit  
from the baobab, circling back  
to the wallows where you rolled all morning,  
baking belly-up, body drying  
to a fine white dust.

Now, you sense the horizon of sound  
closing around you in the Crater,  
men moving, blurring into the elements  
of near distance.

A sudden upwind blizzard explodes  
through a crosshatch of branches  
and slows you to your knees,  
a long breath of dust rising in your fall.  
Your blood heavy with sleep.

Machine guns bedded in the truck,  
they surround your huge silence  
and take what they've come for.  
A white quarter moon rising above them.