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In Lithuania

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In Lithuania

Oma remembers light falling
through birches, fingering moss
in the wood near Memel

and the shining heads of mushrooms,
speckled moon faces
she gathered with her thick hands.

Her braids smelled of pine and salt,
slid through the grass,
switched her thighs when she stood.

At night her hair flowed,
a dark river
through Opa's hands.

*

By the Baltic Sea, her children
ran picking shells,
white and pink like ears.

They knelt in the dunes,
digging for chips of amber.
The sand was fine as flour.

Wind blew across the waves
and bent the grasses: thin shadows
against the ground.

Natania Rosenfeld