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Five Alls

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Laura McKee

FIVE ALLS

A knife frees the burnt cornish hen
delicately from its strings.

Upstairs, an overbred, idiot dog
races dust under beds.

Next door, a child polishes; his mother
sets the hawk's missing foot in gold.

Blood knots a flower to the epicure's temple.
Do you remember how I showed you? Mon amour

propre swallows the bird, drags the sage twigs,
one by one, out of the crumbling palace.