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## Chelydra serpentina

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*CHELYDRA SERPENTINA*

Then along the side of the road there's this  
turtle, and it's just sitting there, head  
half out of its shell, not moving, so you think  
maybe it's dead—except that its stillness  
is taut with potential.

Seemingly oblivious  
to the leaves and sticks plastered  
to its carapace, it waits for some minute  
diurnal click to signal *now* inside  
its ancient brain, to wake the lumbering  
gait with which it will retrace  
its own journey from the egg, down  
the mossy hill to the green, skulking pond.