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Coal and Slate

Samuel Gray

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COAL AND SLATE are black rocks they drink the light.
Lamp-black drinks the light.
Your hands.

Cotton-seed oil is cheaper, burns dirty.
You learn not to look at your lunch
as you eat it.

Smoke-damp, stink-damp, low roof.
After sitting, you're stiff. Stooped
mules go by

in the dark.
They pull the cars you fill they
walk in their own shit their heads wrapped

because they don't need to see.