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## The Car is a Car Leaving

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C DYLAN BASSETT

THE CAR IS A CAR LEAVING

1.

Ignore the road. Inky green moonlight suspended like a fish on a hook. Stars spin in chronological order. Snow falls against the windshield like a sideways tear.

2.

We were only yesterday dreaming in circles. I said When will I become invisible? and you said People see each other in everything. I saw your face in my empty bowl and I tapped it with a spoon.

3.

Cold gets in through the vent. Imagined smell of warm bread. This is what happens to a man's shoes when he dies, to a traveler who understands the words but not the language. Broken radio reception mimics voices of the dead. The car tires hum into the donkey-headed nowhere.

4.

Disaster means lack of star. The last time you were in this car we rolled the windows up. You said a bird breaks into petals the moment it hits a wall. Already your red hair waved in the wind like a goodbye handkerchief.

5.

Consider the road: every lovescape is in a rearview mirror: black feathered lightening: a bleat of migrating birds: the car is a car leaving: a pinwheel of light in the solitary confinement of the universe.