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This is What It Will Be Like

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THIS IS WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE

if you leave this house because it speaks to you night after night
asking for something back

and if there is nothing to give back
because she died

and if loneliness is a tree
dug into by an ax

or if a friend says you should give her
things away now and never look back

if you ever hope to start living again
or if the science known to your children

makes them believe they did not
expect to find anything left of her here at all

because
it is what it is

but you said, science is not art
although anyone looking from the darkness

might suspect that you've
filled the night up with an aesthetic of old ghosts

or if you invite someone else over to practice
an imperative ritual

and if there is a thrilling shallow between that woman's
shoulders tonight a tapered glassine vale

it will contain this message from you
"you have misjudged me because

by tomorrow I will have forgotten you" and when your lips
press down against those words in an hour of desperation

you will pretend
not to believe them.