Fall 2013

This is What It Will Be Like

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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.