

## LETTER

I have walked here  
for centuries  
above each step settles  
another promise  
character after dead character  
the man that really sticks in my jaw  
is fat with anger and  
hyperbole

THERE IS NO FIRE HERE

the road finally has its tendrils  
of earth now that we are vaccinated  
with sticks of bubble gum  
hip-hop for God

the mountains would disinherit  
their fortune if it were not for their infiniteness  
they sigh at talk of fire  
there was only one, maybe two, they say  
the second was probably just a rumor

but believe us there is no fire here  
we should know  
we have been here a long time

## GEORGE

the pine branch raises the flame  
the fire won't catch the wood  
each needled fan george adds  
conjures a sacramental high  
steadied for her chance  
to spill blood or prayer  
the heat, prejudiced for its life,  
is left to wait then dies  
she insists, dispensing wastefully  
the fuel for her home  
to console her own skin.  
it's about time for this place  
to furnish me, she thinks,  
stacking another extremity to burn  
where multiple suffer  
she did not want to wait in line  
and never paid for this tree that  
she rushed home  
to water and ornament.

## OLD GHOST

come here, come shadow  
together, we blush like old ghosts

don't you remember we were caught  
once in a picture flesh and bone and all  
in some old pasture like brothers  
full fingered tiny boned animals  
truing no mouth or ear to swallow  
we were just

together, we

did not wait for the other  
to go first

## SCAR

the house up the street is for sale again  
we try and kiss like adults in the backyard  
sometimes  
the grass has grown taller than both of us  
even when I am on top  
they left an old sofa behind  
but we don't use it

the neighborhood is quiet now  
that all the dogs are gone

your mom is whistling because dinner is ready  
she's screaming your name now  
because you're taking too long  
by the time you get to class in the morning you  
will have your dress tucked into your jeans  
and have picked the scab on your cheek again  
so it will hopefully scar.