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## Megan, Inside

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MEGAN, INSIDE  
Tom Haushalter

Then I am back in Indiana. That house having  
never not held the ruddy October tone

is all over again. My sister carries dish-towels  
and a shoebox to the foot of the walnut tree

where an infant squirrel has landed and lies,  
a separate planet. There isn't a verb

tender enough for her manner of guardianship.  
For that reason, there is nothing she can do.

Back of the barn, a new shoebox-size hole  
will lengthen a hidden timeline of seasons: summers

and autumns of feline funerals, a retriever's passing,  
a glut of hamsters, the outright plague of goldfish.

Her brothers, pallbearers, carve out a plot  
as Megan, inside, falls apart, her chagrin dear

among the terrible floorboards in that house.