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View of Home

Carrie Shipers

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Shipers: View of Home

VIEW OF HOME

Carrie Shipers

The town seemed smaller
after the water had gone.
At its worst, it stood ten feet deep
on Main, and the view
from river bridge to river bridge
was *lovely*, I want to say:
water, houses, the top halves
of trees. What trash there was
went by so quickly in the current
it almost wasn't there.
But to watch the river retreat
was to see, again, junkyards filled
with tail-finned Fords,
house trailers sagging
at their centers, grain sacks
and beer cans lining the ditches,
the town's refuse only slightly
rearranged. We scrubbed for days
to remove the mud
and a smell I still can't name,
everything left to sour in the sun.