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The Ballad of Danny-The-Butcher

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Serea: The Ballad of Danny-The-Butcher

THE BALLAD OF DANNY-THE-BUTCHER
Claudia Serea

Danny-The-Butcher is a tall strong man
with an outlaw moustache
and a pro-wrestler name
he carries his surgical knives in a tiny
velvet-lined box
 like a flute case

in the back-of-the-house he sculpts
the orange morning in
 salmon flesh

he makes steaks, cuts to pieces meats
and the lives of others, with his huge judging knife:

he advises all to leave, or change

he tells Olga Run away
 be a supermodel

he tells Mary how
 beautiful the Acropolis is

he tells Ursula Take a cab,
 go Somewhere

he tells Viktor Get a better job
at The Windows of the World, in a tower
 that shall fall

one morning the tower fell
carrying Viktor like a pitched
flute note
 in abyss

that morning Danny had come earlier to work
cut thirty steaks and they let
 more blood than usual

standing in the kitchen alone when he got the news
the blood rose to his ankles
 to his knees

since then he stopped giving life advice
 took up playing the flute