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Pulse

Biman Roy

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Roy: Pulse

PULSE

Biman Roy

Facing the library, the red oak
in purplish light of November
casts a shadow on the stubbled
face of concrete apartments.

Memories of hanged men
high up in branches of beech,
myrtle and locusts and underneath
mandrakes growing from their semen
still haunt the night.

Not too far from here O'Henry
wrestled with his characters,
even Dickens—
now residents bring their spaniels
and beagles to run round and round
for biscuits as they measure the pulse
of the city through each other's eyes.