

1973

## Winter Recess

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## WINTER RECESS

In the dark sky of roots  
the earth clouds with winter.

There is sleep, a still promise  
fills with dull, grey milk.

The pecans have ended  
their part of the tree. Fallen.

The leaves that went  
before them blacken, wet,

staining two or three fingertips  
that dig in them.

The mud mother shifts once,  
opening her leaf mouths or worse.

The nuts hide  
in the matted slick of leaves.

Close to February  
a cry drifts silently. In soil,

in a trace of intent, a flower  
brimming in darkness.