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## Incident in Winter

Daniel Halpern

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## Incident in Winter · *Daniel Halpern*

*A cage went in search of a bird*  
—Kafka

Someone had seen him wandering  
aimlessly among the trees  
after a heavy snow  
and called in the information.  
The cars came to a standstill  
at the turnaround  
in the dense cloud that covered  
the trees so that only basewood  
was visible.  
There was very little sound,  
only the revolving lights  
of official vehicles  
sweeping their scarlet beams  
off tree base and mountain wall,  
off the faces of passengers  
backed up down the mountain.  
Occasionally, the hollow, static  
reproduction of an official voice  
with a moment of information  
was passed on.  
Car exhaust puffed on air  
and no one was moving.  
And then to the side of the road  
a few men in uniform  
appeared at the treeline  
with a pleasant looking man  
in casual dress, being led  
to the road by either arm,  
a prisoner  
in search of his crime.