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We Might Change

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JAMES DENBOER

We Might Change

for Ernie Brower

The geese feel the low pressure
in the canals of their skulls, the cold
along the spines of each feather;
the deer break the thin ice
at the edges of the springs
with their light hooves, and we,
moving through the solstice,
say, Now we might change
the way we live, trying again
for connection, asking the old gods
in the stone, the wheel
of December stars, in our warm bodies,
to tell us: what you want
is possible. Choose what the animals
choose—live until spring.