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Capote Recalls Being Dill

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PATTI WHITE

Capote Recalls Being Dill

He teased me through the bars,
had bad boy charm, words
like salted buckshot.

When the appeals
failed, my dear, my heart was
broken.

I could hardly bear
the sight of the noose on his neck.

I recall a hot day, an albino rattler
just coming out of the shade

so seductive in his insinuations

the gleam of the snake's white body
the muscles just under the skin

the thin cool column of flesh

and my aunt's hoe like a trapdoor
rising and falling in the sunlight.