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Substantial

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MARY-ALICE DANIEL

SUBSTANTIAL

I like the toned-down language
scientists use for enormous things:

VERY LARGE ARRAY

BIG CRUNCH

SUPER GIANT

GREAT DYING

HUGE LARGE QUASAR GROUP

SUPERMASSIVE BLACK HOLE

LARGE MAGELLANIC CLOUD

SUPERCONDUCTING SUPER THING

*SUPER OUTBREAK: 18 hours, 13 states, 148 tornadoes—
10-month-old baby in the cupboard with a cut
the night nature lost her goddamn mind.*

To make it more personal,
I will elaborate:
Supercell in 1997 with a Ford-sized dent in the water tower.
We covered our heads with slavery-apologetic textbooks—
*those who knew to hide under underpasses
hid under underpasses.*

&

Massive ships carrying massive ships to ship graveyards.
Aircraft on back of aircraft.
I worry about the delicacy of any creature's joints:
a little creature of a person standing at vulnerable coordinates.

(We are large very super grand hardly enough.)

&

Our construction of the Brooklyn Bridge—
Cables eager to catch humans:

*humans otherwise caught in a net of telephone wires
humans assimilated into the larger borg*

&

Slow-moving wall of ice.

Ice that overtakes some houses.

Perfect circle of ice growing on some rivers.

Unusual snowing. Freak winter of terror.

Small animals freezing where they stand.