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Under Darkness

Daniel Halpern

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Nothing changes, darkness
over the body holds steady and complete,
consumes light as it lifts over the ledge
of sea and falls onto the body asleep.

In darkness the black pennies of death
over the lids hold eyes in darkness.
The body falls back and back,
pressed into the recessive landscapes
of sleep. No one walks here, or here, or here.
There are those spinning on spokes of light
who remain unseen. This is the literature
and history of light, light that is in air
but no longer alive at its source:
it arrives homeless and dying.
Again and again no change, setting out alive
and bright, moving forward with the dark
already eating at the base and the home wood.
The body and the body’s beauty are lights
that belong nowhere but in air,
leaving nowhere, going nowhere, suspended
in the dark, tunneling with what life is left
through their own dark root systems.
Pennies rattle on the fluttering eyes of those still
alive, those feeding off the flesh of darkness.