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After

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After

Abstract

"How weightless words are when nothing will do."- Philip Levine

Keywords

poem, names, perceptions, withdrawn



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After

by Ryan Ragan

"How weightless words are when nothing will do."

- Philip Levine

It does bother me that I'm the
asshole. Whether or not it's a
perceived status, or much like
the musher's dream, a dark and
cold run – I can't be sure. But what
I see in faces, body language and
words is no longer beautiful. Maybe
it never was, and I'm now realizing
what the ravens have known all along.
I have withdrawn the galaxy, the sedated
bull resting in my lungs, returned
a wounded soldier, limping down
my father's long dirt driveway
blonde in the southern sun.

Ryan Ragan is a student in the Creative Writing MFA program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. His work has appeared in various journals

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and is forthcoming in CutBank.

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