Elegy for My Wisdom Teeth

I only saw you once through the slate-blue glow of the X-ray projector but mine was the only mouth you ever called home. You hid for years in anticipation of the moment at which I might need to tear into the raw flesh of some long-extinct bird or gnash at the fibers of prehistoric foliage. You must feel such dejection from beyond
as I pulse such greens
in an overpriced blender,
forever replacing you
with electricity
and spinning steel.

I signed the waiver that would afford you an afterlife of dental schools and research labs, but you put up a fight, coming out in too many little pieces to resemble anything akin to teeth. I won’t remember you that way, though. Like the appendix, the tailbone, and the third eyelid, you were useful once. And so I reminisce. I try to grieve the times we shared as my jaw aches for codeine and clove oil. Pain is my only penance for dealing the coup de grâce before your roots ever had the chance to germinate through my bedrock of bone and gum. Truthfully, I never cared about you. But I can never win you back.