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## Summit

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**summit**

he bared his teeth  
and ha-ha-ha-ed  
louder than she,  
    as usual  
he talked about stocks  
and their tendencies,  
    trendy  
and football and Clinton's last speech  
he had rotor-rooted the yard, washed the  
car, did laundry  
    because even that's something  
    he's not afraid to do  
she felt him struggling  
to pull himself up  
scratch at her eyelids,  
pull on her scalp and claw  
    at her nostrils  
he reached the summit,  
head tilted back      drove the flag in her skull  
    still laughing

—Bekah Taylor '00