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The Farm

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Anna Gooch

The rev of a four wheeler
mixes with the screams
of seven young children
echoing over fields
of gold and blood
fester in the orchard
ancestral trees watching
the sun setting over acres
of hereditary soil
turned by callused hands
belonging to callused hearts
of the family that fights
atop beaten bones
and rotten spoils
the family that laughs
alongside cursed crickets
that keep them awake
until the cows break loose
and the cursing starts again
the family that does not cry
they plead for rain
to feed the grass
but bury the tears that fester
in crusted earth
in order to prove
one does not need rain
to grow hay