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The Invention is a Story/a Story is Everything

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The Invention is a Story/a Story is Everything
William Barnes

Forever that boy sat, a fossil in the drift
of time, rolling over each stone in the driveway
that only went so far for what to write of himself—
a creeping trilobite; a snoring seed; the light
downy of Schrödinger’s bird—
and the day the road caught his palm
was the day he caught wind
of the world.
Swept down that road
and into the pasture of hills and glens bound
by the pall of space and the same old rusted fence
where sheep skulls roost with coyote pelts,
he traced the waft of dandelions
blowing petals and rearing leaves
to where, from that brook-bank there,
he’d leap to sit
and see. There he rooted
from florid clay the invention
of the invention
that was him.