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## states of grace

Dixie Partridge

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## states of grace

the cold riverbank  
hazel and silver after rain  
cattails dripping the almost stillness

liquid streaks  
down trunks of bare trees  
faint trickle of the familiar

where we walk two  
together and each  
apart

distant houses shrink and darken  
in the orchid twilight  
overripe in the west  
clouds bruise  
into night edges tinging  
an afterlife

thirty years and no words  
as faithful  
as an ordinary solitude

our breath geysering  
before us brown grasses  
sheened by the rains

—Dixie Partridge