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ACCOMPLICES

Dreams come home to die and find
 no welcome there, for home is
 the one place that insists
 on living continually. If in
 desperation or weariness
 we look for that dark womb
 as wounded animals do, we find it
 populated with memories
 crackling with energy.
 Even an unhappy childhood
 or chaotic snatches of infancy
 have a sturdiness about them
 to defeat our planned release.
 You return to your stories
 of neighbors, long-dead relatives,
 and stir a brighter light in the
 room. I counter with tales
 long-hidden of projects and actions
 you had forbidden but we managed
 anyway. *How did you do that?*
 you ask. *The same way you did,*
when you were sixteen and rebellious,
 I reply. Amused at our shared
 reactions, we both grow younger
 and stronger, at least for a few
 heartbeats. You cannot beg
 for mercy here: we will only
 give you complicity.

Amy Jo Schoonover
Mechanicsburg, Ohio