

Splinter Crawl

j.s. davis

blisters, insect bites, long nails—none of these flaws
compare to slashes alongside, inside vs. outside, legged,
to fix where the fall occurred, no time to think,
body temperature quickly falls, trees sway in strong winds,
overbearing mother trees mock, grappling limbs and easy hips,
in this darkness, no one can see, save a chalky moth,
when one foot cannot follow another plan b or tragedy c?
down on knees, breathing lies, feeling ice shards
cut through thin skin, there is wildness located in pain,
sliding one side of a tired body through snow towards
light and locked apartments, obliged with a phone #,
competitive push, heave, force with fervent tactics,
blood rushes to wounded region, chained to muck,
a conniving, backstabbing deterrent from dominance.