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Eating at Neruda's Table

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Eating at Neruda's Table

Bob De Smith, for Taz

Butcher block, seeping with
Pig's blood as the cleaver
Does its work

Smell of ether as
The country Doc
Finishes his bone setting—

Or of amniotic fluid
At a beginning

Corn canned
Models made
Drinks drunk
Scripture said

Malto-meal on a school morning

Dad dropping his greasy drawers
To sit for mashed potatoes at noon

Tuning a pinewood
Car along its grain lines

Spilt milk
Dead soldiers
Dried tears

Stains

Hands held
Coins counted
Prayers prayed
Meals made
Schemes sketched

Table hockey and gift wrapping

Laying out the scrapbook pieces:
A wedding rose
An obituary
Those yellowed newspapers—
All of it