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The Endangered: New and Selected Poems

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Going Blind

First, footnotes slide like tears
from the page. Next, the smaller creatures—
birds, mice—disappear. Then, most amazing,
friends’ faces; a loved one’s hands.

In the back of the eye, blood
collects, a dark shadow. Hospital, pain . . .
What does it matter, Eliot’s bank’s address,
a scurrying blur, tanager’s flame?

Yet, last, anything worth a try:
surgeon’s knife, laser’s beam, a Gypsy’s
casting of cards, palms;

even prayer.

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