DOUG RAMSPECK

the brothers fall in love

with an augury of horseflies & the broken vessel of the days & the skull of moon & the bloodletting clouds & the broken eye sockets of dreams & the fevered death rattles of snores levitating from their father’s room & the starving dog & the knife that slices off the squirrel’s tail & the confetti of feathers as the pellet strikes & the smell of their boy flesh & the bloodied meat & the potions of fetid night rain & the neighbor girl they spy through her bathroom window & the crude words they write in chalk on her driveway & the bats at twilight that appear like broken chips of sky & the rotting loam inside their chests & the neighbor girl they call names on the school bus & the cemetery crows that float above the graves & the raccoon at the roadside with its heavy bloat & the neighbor girl who retreats inside her house when they ride by on their bikes & the dead bones of trees that stand up by the river & the sacred object of the girl’s notebook they steal from her at school then adorn with drawings of penises & boobs & the boot that crushes the head of a snake & the snapping turtle they crack open at the river & the girl who gives them the sacrament of the finger the evenings they chase her into her yard