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Instructions for the Cast

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Allen: Instructions for the Cast
INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CAST

Jennifer Allen

Begin at the end and work your way back.

I.

Step back.
The scene dissolves
into smooth
grey stone.

II.

Close your eyes.
What's absent
burns shadows on the backs
of your eyelids.

III.

Stare hard.
Under each other's gaze,
slowly fall apart—broken rusting
tractors in a tidy field.

IV.

Walk the fence line. Pretend it's a tightrope.
At the edges, the soil maps
its memory of water, a brown puzzle
as cracked as our conversation.

V.

Use your fingers. Can you feel the fractures?
What seeps through them is carnal,
invisible—a shining junction of shards
under a microscope of sky.