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Death of the Blues

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William Olsen

Death of the Blues

Blind Lemon Jefferson, plump little boy,
sixth and last, with sort of a gift for wandering
far from the porch and not getting lost, chased
rabbits across the black oil waste and shrieked
at the false disasters, his brothers and sisters, those
voices that couldn't hear the wind sear and sing
through scrub as he could hear it, blues in the sky,
blues in the kitchen, blues in the stars on high,
blue night, blue future, blue infuckingcredible guitar,
blue Wortham, blue Dallas, blue Chicago bus stop,
blue blind snow, blue headlights who knows whose,
blue fingers cupped and breathed into and steaming
the same blue steam rising through sewer gratings,
blue face. It goes. The lonely go. Blue everything.