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## ZOO TOUR

We move through the park in a forced circuit,  
an eclipse, making everything in front of us dark:

experienced rabbits freeze  
grown apes tear the hair off their hands  
birds feel our eyes on them and flee  
giraffes fold their tongues in blue fists  
perch-bound eagles drop their lunch of guts  
elephants can't tell we're near until

it's too late. We have no smell.  
They have no escape.

We walk away and flies float  
like satellites around our heads.

No one comes when we call.  
We won't say their names.

**NIGHT KEEPING PARADISE**

I am an invert Eve  
wandering her night Eden  
the animals name me

the tiger burning bright  
patrols concrete in the mixed light  
of half moon and vending machine

wolves whistle back train  
and ambulance  
to an ancient edge on the Sunset Hwy

tundra swans drift pinioned  
in the bathwater  
of mallards and rats

moving through this starlit park, a gunnite garden,  
I am faithful with a radio,  
a flashlight, a fistful of single keys

I've sent the chimps to bed  
checked orangutans sleeping  
under blanket boxes

let crocodiles undo their eyelids  
slip into the pool  
to take snapshots of tilapia

but the elephants wait until midnight  
their swaying gray shades  
hypnotize my attentions and I find

their trunks more serpentine  
than the boas and pythons  
on the hill, these trunks light in my ears

whispering, hungry  
with the wet air of their ideas  
they tempt me to let go

of my shadowless grappling  
for keys hanging cold  
on the gatehooks of language

**FIELD NOTES: APES**

Gorillas sit all afternoon in deep green,  
digesting, turning leaves  
toward the long dreams of trees.

First thing in the bright-fingered morning,  
orangutans take figs and roses  
from my front yard.

Prone to bipedal fits of beauty and rage,  
the hairless solve so much with matches and fists,  
touching everything, and migratory, like a stain.