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Baby Rat

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Baby Rat

A blind baby rat Luke and Malina tell me
staggering, hopeless, alone, on a burning street
near Columbia, maybe on Amsterdam,
north of St. John's, his two eyes empty
the sockets a dirty red, either born that
way or plucked out by a hungry
crow, the eyeball his first delight,
the sweet and slippery taste thereof, someone
will kick him into a sewer or pick him up
with a tissue and throw him back
and get on his phone in a second to rid himself
somehow of the horrible sight, and I who
for two days now was thinking of the redwoods
and our walk in the Muir Woods in the 1970s
thought of placing him in one of the upper villages
300 feet in the air protected by
maybe a spider's web, maybe
a few odd twigs, guaranteed
at least an hour of peace
for I have the privilege now
which I didn't have 40, 50 years ago
looking up and almost toppling over.