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Broken Body

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Nick McRae

Broken Body

Pallid, blue-veined, tall: a synagogue
for years unentered. Cobwebs in the halls.
Forsaken, kudzued country church—split log—
no congregants to pray it never falls.

Porous rafters, brittle I-beams fat
with brokenness and bolts. Titanium.
Nerve-strands bunched and knotted: my cravat
of faulty wiring. Shorted, sparking, numb.

This temple I live in is just a shack
with too much insulation, busted locks,
shutters off their hinges. Infested: louse

and starling, cockroach, weevil—windows black
with bile. Unholy, wrecked confession box.
I live alone in my inscrutable house.