

I hit a deer

after dark
even with bright beams
out of nowhere
brown form comes

it happens so quickly
ears, lanky legs, thick body
illuminated motion
one last leap

trembling thud—
breaking, shattering
plastic shards
hail on the road

I pull over
flashers on
engine off
inspect the damage

big doe sprawled
reposed on grass
flanks, belly heave
soundless last breaths

beyond repair
round lamps of eyes
extinguished
in the silence

Lucy Tyrrell
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