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Scraping

Lynn Hoggard

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Lynn Hoggard

Scraping

Imagine a clam shell—
not a great tool—
just a clam shell.
You're using it
to scrape a smooth surface
on a burn-encrusted metal sheet.
It makes horrific sounds,
like someone hacking up
wads of phlegm.
That noise, you realize,
is your soul.

You keep on scraping.