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Buying Apples After Not Leaving the House for Three Days

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Last fall's most likely and already
mealy, buried for months

in a warehouse cooler, only
to be thrown into the mercy

of this grocery's discount bin.
My mother, of course, would know,

who could tell a good apple simply
by how it sounded.

Or the men: the one who fed me
slices drizzled in honey or the other

who served them to me on a blade.
But tonight I'm not asking.

I press my thumb into the bruised skin,
feeling for that which survives

the queasy lurch into dark
then light then dark again.