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Killing My Grandfather

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Killing My Grandfather

Sarah Holsteen

The mermaid's purse,
premature,
had washed ashore.

“Don't squeeze it.”
Grandpa said.
“It's an egg.”

We peered at this potential—

a time capsule,
coarse and horned;

a sealed story
of generations.
Unheeding.

I pressed
the thick brown husk
between my hands

and watched his face
as I squandered
every nascent dream

—a milky line
strung out on the wind
mixing with the sea