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The Heart Beats Hurt The Ears

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The Heart Beats Hurt The Ears

Thomas Sheridan

An unfamiliar face looming overhead
Hunger in the pit of the stomach

The all-consuming darkness
The shadows of an armchair on the wall
The blur of the visual periphery
As eyes twitch to and fro
The monsters in the fog
The mist that hides the hills

A sure and unseen footstep
A creak upon the stair
The truck with too bright headlights
Nearing close behind
A long walk through the empty parking lot
The man in a dark hood

The child backlit by headlights
The fire alarm shrieking its alarum
Plague, murder, poverty
The apocalypse every night at 10
Unfolding one story at a time

Lies, denial, wrinkled hospital sheets
Lost goals
Failed dreams
Wasted time
Loss of control
The world, left behind
The remaining hearts of man

Nothing.