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Christmas

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BLAKE WALLIN

christmas

This is the second time they've come over
Unannounced and regally aloof
In their moderate sedan.

You view them through encrusted
Windows – moldy reminders to clean,
The detritus and et cetera.

Leni the awkward one hobbles out of the car,
Walking through the window's mold,
Grabbing cups diligently.

Twofold remonstrances capsize
Leni's boat of happiness –
That's what he calls it.

Idiot savants except he's not a savant,
And you're much, much meaner
Than you remember.

Family dinners:
Ancient horrors coming back to roost
Like popping a joint you didn't know existed,

Mashed potatoes cooked without consulting
Mother's mother's recipe.