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The Invitation

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The Invitation _Tom Hill

"Are you going my way?"

"Well, yes"—down the passage,
away & through,
silent (as anything) &
the smell of smoke still
(through a screen) & also—
dawn's threat to break—
little bones underfoot
(a dense crush, slivers
set to stick) & somewhere

in the dark a whisper
a flick of the wrist:
"clean as a whistle, yes"

and then the dreams:
tigers in the grass—
tobacco ash & fruit—
the sweet quick slip
of you at the eyes &
at the throat—something
like smoke—but (now)
even less a shadow
even less a ghost.



Dash, Color Photograph

_Steven Anderson