

Penumbra

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The Orchard

Where has all the windfall gone?
she asks in my recurring dream.
I lead her by the arm. Her gown,
lined in a bronze light, glides above

the lawn. Her feet are wet with dew.
I want to answer with the truth,
but know that she is hungry—and
afraid. Instead, I clench my teeth.

She's forgotten the fruit's name,
and thinks that I'm my father—last
of her two sons and daughter. Time
is relative among these trees

that stretch as far as we can see,
smoldering like Eden in the sun.
Before I wake, she asks again,
Where has all the windfall gone?