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Taking Leave of a Friend

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Taking Leave of a Friend

Murray Stugars

Last spring we sat beneath
the stand of cottonwoods
on your father's land. The white down
flew like snow. Now it's December
and the snow is flying like cotton-
wood fleece. The wind blows
in laced patterns
this way and that like the gauze
curtains in your room. I look
a long time into the sky
but still can't see your image: not even
so much as a quiver in the air.