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With Dad

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With Dad

by Ivan Hobson

In the high-country on horseback,
we saw that rattlesnake
get taken into the sky.

What was wrong with the hawk
that it did not finish the job?

The snake striking until it was freed,
falling until it crashed
on the rocks below,

and the hawk, drunk with venom,
fluttered to the ground
where you told me it wouldn't survive
the afternoon.

There I was, an unsure boy,
when I cleared my throat and asked you
if you still loved mom.

