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A Death Like This

by Stephen Geric

I remember thinking that a death like this was the best for which such a creature could hope. I remember thinking just that as the sun sent a pattern across an acre of new snow, and then it took every bit of will to ignore a pull to translate, or to interpret, or to somehow discover presence amid such absence.

I remember thinking that crows are, at any rate, weak creatures, prone to noisy congress and swift retreat. But when a rare afternoon sun in late December glances its light off a few black feathers that rest on glowing snow, it can be difficult to find your breath, to even claim the content of your lungs as your own. Breath that hovers for a moment and then goes the way of dead crows. Symbolic? Yes. I remember thinking that, anyway, symbols also appear, hover, and then go.

