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"Violent Dogs"

You pack up your shit to get gone
usher your little kids
into the back
of a '79 Plymouth

and off you go.

It can work somehow
you got a friend
er-
you have an acquaintance
who knows this guy
who has a friend
who might have a place
to rent

out in the country
away from the city
away from all cities

who?

So you go
it can work somehow

everybody wants to be a Navajo
this guy
he thinks he's Indian
he's white

eclectic?

He'll rent you this house
until the previous tenant
gets out of jail

sublet.

It can work somehow

you can make it a home
you do

it's a strange place

but it's a place

that landlord is weird
you keep him at a distance

the whole "community" is weird
you can't keep them at a distance

you learn names
they learn yours
you assimilate
they "accommodate"

it can work somehow

a dog almost kills your six year old
the owner doesn't care
you tell your kids
to be careful

another local complains
about this dog
the owner still doesn't care

your kids walk cautiously
to and fro
they're survivors

you forget about the dog

you're on your deck
one night
smokin' a cigarette
you see your neighbors
have a big bonfire going

something gets tossed in
that dog

animal control.

They see the light of your cigarette

that guy

with the now-dead dog
he's pissed
he wants to know
who did it

word gets out
that you had motive

you wake up
to people
standing over you

There's a butch lesbian
with brass-knuckles
she's that dog owner's sister

and the guy
he's the neighbor
with the bonfire

patsy, you?

They pummel you
you don't make a sound

it can't work somehow

they leave discouraged
but still threaten

your kids
see their aftermath

You wipe off your face
tape up your nose
pack up your kids to get gone

And off you go.