On Your Knees

Eve is the stars now

✶

After the cancer wars
came the lean, lean years.
Most nights I drink alone
at a bar on Monterey Street,
$25 burgers served in red baskets
with stale fries.

The lonely waitress
reminds me of no one.
She wipes hard,
like she's scrubbing
sorrow off river rocks
with a bar rag.

The sky falls like ash from a coal fire
onto the old man (could be any man)
beneath a Ryder truck cap,
rarely speaking.

hanging above the road

⊕

Eve is the stars now,
hanging above the road
on the way back from Wheeling

Tonight, the dead come
sit beside you, buy you a beer,
until the air outside turns green
with streetlights and fog,
and it's just dark in here.
You crawled through the dark
to find your way back
to that bar by the river,
but you get scared,
end up back on the streets.
to that bar by the river.

on the way back from Wheeling

Blake Lynch

Blake Lynch is a poet, editor, journalist, and game developer based in Virginia. A late-stage testicular cancer survivor, he holds a BFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and a JD from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. Hanging the Angels is his first full-length, traditionally printed poetry collection. His poems have appeared in Chelsea, The Southampton Review, 2River, Lines + Stars, Dunes Review, South 85 Journal, Poetry Motel, King Log, PIF Magazine, and elsewhere. His essays and cultural criticism have appeared in Alphaville: Journal of Film and Screen Media, Listverse, and Diabolique. His plays have been staged in New York City, Pittsburgh, and at the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London. Lynch currently serves as Media Research Editor and Lead Gaming Analyst at OTR Global, where he founded and directs the firm's video game division. He is also developing Love Junction, a narrative video game blending satire, nostalgia, and literary ambition, and writing a book on the history of point-and-click game failures. He is at work on his second poetry collection, The Tin Foxes, and a collected edition of his early publications, The House of the Moon and Stars. A longtime resident of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Lynch now lives in Virginia with his wife, Jessie, and his daughter, Charlie.