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Polar Vortex

Travis Scholl

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Polar Vortex

TRAVIS SCHOLL

The days had already started
to lengthen again. What had
curled up into itself, its
past, lurches forward, reaching . . .

There is still light here, yes,
to declare this day. From inside
the window, though, it deceived
our expectations of it,
because the air was so
cold, so shockingly cold.

The polar air remains, incarnates
your breath as you walk out the door,
fleeting, and then the cloud is gone.

Still, the light sparkles there
in the short-lived cloud,
crystals catching light
short-lived but luminous.
This is how revelation works,
you know, the paradox

of it. One sees it
crouched in the corner
of one's eye, hears it

in the microscopic crackle,
the nearly inaudible
hum of breath frosted
by this cold, cold air
only to flash with the light
of our closest, most intimate star,
flying into our invisible memories,

to find refuge in our lengthening
hopes for how life is yet to be.

Travis Scholl is the author of *Walking the Labyrinth*. In addition to poetry, his most recent essays have appeared in *Assay* and *Fourth Genre*. He is a PhD candidate in creative writing at the University of Missouri, Columbia, and works at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.