

We Know

by Sam Stokley

knots/for the speedy tying of laces/crisp bow ties/for sailors/cow
girls and boy scouts/retired CEOs tying leader to tippet on the edge
of the Bitterroot/kites knotted on cedar wood crosses/kites as
kites/nothing more/kids know/kids with kites are carefree/some
knots slither and constrict like a snake/ululations/kites get caught in
towering trees/cats do too/climbing higher and higher fistfuls of
scythes fear the way down/kneeling in a churchyard/coffin/the
family clan/knobby father fingers tighten a too-long tie around the
supplest throat/coffin kept open/bloated/blue/mottled/kite meets
tree/stuck against blue sky/no/don't/cut the kites free/a susurration
out of reach/longing for the kite that slices sharp the sky/a branch-
bound kite teaches gnarled limbs/to become kin/the trunks of
oak/willow/aspen/cherry/skyscraping or toppled/keep their own
history/kites fly/lower and lower/soon outside/a strange
stillness/screaming silence/static.