NO MATTER

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Poems in this collection appeare Boots, Pyrowords, 6ix, and Veer	ed originally in <i>Con</i>	nspire, Ducky, Joey	& the Black
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matter

О n e when the letters are stones dragged placed abandoned S n W when the letters are snow curved 1eft packed a 1 o w c h y when the letters are yellow chalk up on the blackboard a S S e e n g r when the letters are green grass placed in shade woven b a t when it brushes arm-hair in the cave's deepest black h g a when the glass-slivers bubble up from the trench of blood

snow

was there

a time before

the wind the whiteness

the cold was

there a summit

was there a voice

calling me home was

there a time

before the sled the

runners the long

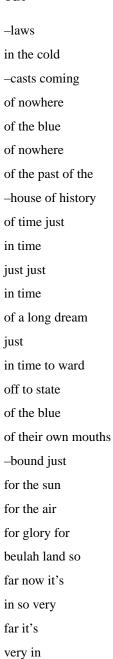
hill was there

a time when I

wanted

anything else

out



sweet tooth

a dream so weighted plumbing
mind's whole deep down
to the wellspring then
pulling wellspring mind
hole in after it a
dream so weighted no
but not by horror light
filling the peach room cricket-thick
night straining the front
door screen you and always
you hair-frizz pinch
of flesh closer than
darkness than day closer
than waking than fact

wedding

the word to the cave
no part of the space that is not
the word the cave after
all is the space the word after all
others is all the space that
is the cave

no matter

is this right then we put

all our ducks in a row all

our ducks of the under-word all made

of quarks which are or are

not matter but certainly are not

meaning though the ducks

mean as we line

the ducks up they make

a surface of

water surface and water that

are not do not matter but

do mean the matter then

cannot mean the meaning is

nothing but we keep

on lining up the ducks beneath

the surface of water

is depth the more ducks the more

depth and dark and

murk all of which is no

matter no matter not matter but is

dark murk and deep story

layered upon story stories without

matter but with meaning how

is it possible to live like

this to make stories that

mean but are no matter

JOEL CHACE has published poetry and prose poetry in print and electronic magazines such as 6ix, Tomorrow, Lost and Found Times, Coracle, xStream, Three Candles, 2River View, Joey & the Black Boots, Recursive Angel, and Veer. He has published more than a dozen print and electronic collections, including Translations From After (anabasis/extant, 2004) and drawer (xPressed/Lulu, 2005). He is a NEH Fellow. For many years, Chace has been Poetry Editor for the experimental electronic magazine 5_Trope.