Todd's paralysis

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Todd's on the railing
with the Hudson rolling grey below.

Yesterday his body seized
as it is wont to do;
today he stands,
mouth full with a bitten tongue,
careful not to look down.

He fears he's trading everything
for a few local headlines
and a dubious paradise.

Fears he's trading it all
to finally sever the wires
that have short circuited
so many times before.

Fears that he'll stand here forever
on the edge of the GW bridge—paralyzed
unable to leap forward or turn back.

He fears he's surrendering

everything:
coffee on the fire escape at dawn,
the entire city rising like steam,
the soft noise of her tossing and turning
as the sun fills his loft—fears he's surrendering

it all:
the looping track of his heart,
the warblers returning to the park,
the tree-lined streets flooding
with rain
with leaves
with snow
with rain again.

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