

The Barn

The fallow barn began to sink into itself--
first the steep pitch over the loading chute,
then the lean-to for hand-fed calves. Stanchion
head rails split, supports wobbled. The concrete
floor-trough for washing out manure alligatored
and misaligned itself. The center beam sagged
as if sky brought its weight to bear
on the side of subdivision and construction companies.
When the first house was built on ranch land,
the developers made a killing: the final cracking
gasp of the barn falling to its knees.

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