

DOUG RAMSPECK

the brothers fall in love

with an augury of horseflies & the broken vessel of the days & the skull of moon
& the bloodletting clouds & the broken eye sockets of dreams & the fevered death
rattles of snores levitating from their father's room & the starving dog & the knife
that slices off the squirrel's tail & the confetti of feathers as the pellet strikes & the
smell of their boy flesh & the bloodied meat & the potions of fetid night rain & the
neighbor girl they spy through her bathroom window & the crude words they write
in chalk on her driveway & the bats at twilight that appear like broken chips of sky
& the rotting loam inside their chests & the neighbor girl they call names on the
school bus & the cemetery crows that float above the graves & the raccoon at the
roadside with its heavy bloat & the neighbor girl who retreats inside her house when
they ride by on their bikes & the dead bones of trees that stand up by the river &
the sacred object of the girl's notebook they steal from her at school then adorn with
drawings of penises & boobs & the boot that crushes the head of a snake & the
snapping turtle they crack open at the river & the girl who gives them the sacrament
of the finger the evenings they chase her into her yard