

Elephant

LEDLOWE GUTHRIE

It pushed our pillows apart and
though I wanted to
it dragged my head away
when you kissed me

It hunched your shoulders closed
filled your body with stones
pulled you into the darkness

From safe distances
conversations skirted
clung in corners
stretched along walls

Like a leech it swelled
sucked you dry and empty
a dusty lake bed

It swallowed your loud words
wrapped your voice in grass
so when we talked
it hid your sound from me

Then like the shedding
of a skin grown old
the unexpected turn of a season
You unfurled and breathed.