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Ridge

She says one word: "Ridge"
 and you look at it
 floating there alone
 though it's vanished now,
 has returned again
 into the mind's dark
 dictionary and
 silence that takes back
 this room and your ear.
 But her saying it
 still quivers, the flower
 on the stalk of your
 memory of her
 speaking. You're a stem
 connecting her "Ridge"
 to the endless root
 of the word buried
 in language, its loam
 quaking on a core
 of metal on fire.
 Why that one word here?

Has she gone mad? What
 sentence did it leave
 behind it or fly
 to join, what work gang
 or purgatory
 of words? Who are its
 wife and its brother
 words, its family of
 a moment, its place,
 its generation,
 its village of words
 to give it a life,
 to come before it,
 last after, and be
 grandparents to it,
 graveyard and church bells,
 and at last ghost town?
 They never appeared.



It rose alone and
 its "rrr" and its "dge"
 were the mud on stone
 of the ridges of
 her native town and
 its "id" was the light
 of the sun rising
 or setting out from
 the long forested heights.

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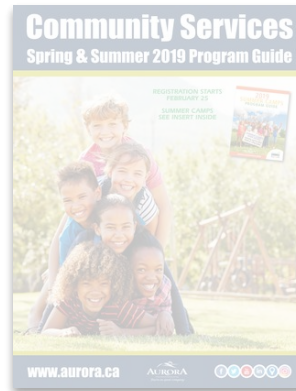
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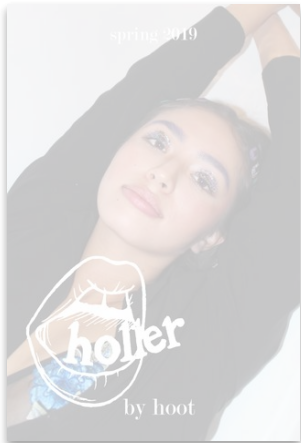
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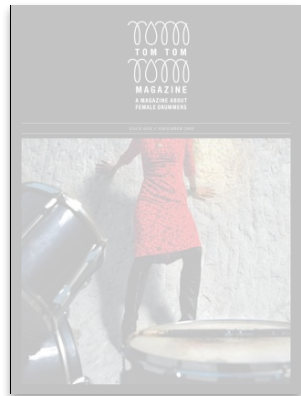
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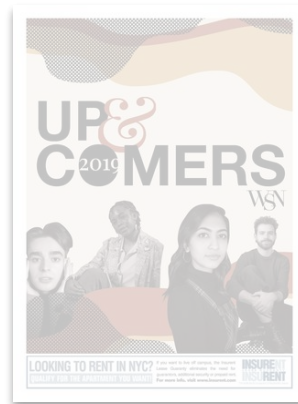
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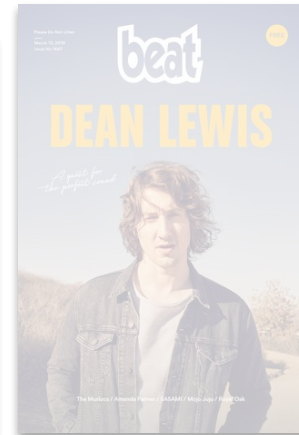
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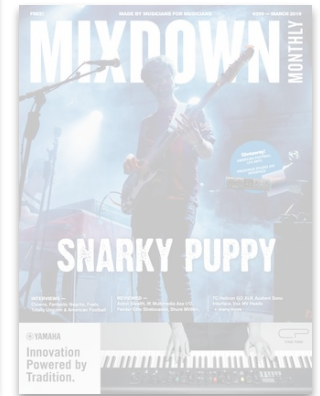
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