

## The Dollar Value of Fingers

A pinky taken in the mines is worth  
ten thousand dollars. A forefinger goes

for five times more. You always wanted  
to get out of here, this small town.

The only thing for an unschooled boy  
like you to do is dig deep

for coal. The same that blackens  
your snot and the underside

of your fingernails, that traces  
the hard, calloused lines of your palms

and streaks me with its war paint  
when you run your hands over

my stomach, your forefinger tracing  
symbols I can't read, and I try

to remember the room I used to have  
in me for this, when all that mattered

was that we could hold onto each other.  
Now, the want of fifty thousand

dollars, how maybe it could  
save us.