

# *Sketch*

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## Jinxed

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# *JINXED*

He has begun to feel he's dangerous, somehow —  
not merely unlucky, as when his car  
was totaled in the driveway by a speeding drunk,  
or the time, helping his cousin move,  
he broke his ankle jumping off the pickup truck.  
This is different: he thinks he knows,  
but can't explain, why he walked without looking  
in front of that cab last year;  
suspects the feeling he had that recent day  
of nausea rubbing inside him like two dry sticks  
was related to the fire that killed his best friend.  
He trembles with relief each time  
he comes home from a day of cursing his coworkers  
and finds his family unstruck by lightning.  
There'll come a day, he's sure, when  
he'll refuse to leave the house,  
certain that, in a moment of distraction, he'd step  
on a crack in the sidewalk or stroll beneath a ladder  
and then return home  
to find his door marked with blood or a telegram.