

RACHEL JAMISON WEBSTER

## The Tower of Babel<sup>1</sup>

contained in its central paradox,  
the burial, the uplifting,  
the exhumation of the People.

Medicine Bow Peak  
was up there,  
overland, abandoned,

the rock folded,  
pump jacks bobbing oil.

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<sup>1</sup> This poem is mined from John McPhee's account of North American geology at the fortieth parallel, *Annals of the Former World*. These words, including the title, appear in this order on page 330.

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