

BOBBIN AT BEEBE RIVER by Dudley Laufman

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You can see the place
 through the trees in winter
otherwise you wouldn't
 know it was there
An abandoned mill village
 row houses
most of them empty boarded up
 but in summer
some with flowers and lawn
 beat up cars in yard
kids running in and out of sagging doors
Road full of holes
 does a 45
and goes along side the railroad track
 by a burnt out post office
towards the bobbin factory
 broken widows no roof
They made bobbins for cotton mills
 'til the industry moved south
Does another 45 around a pond
 sawmill with gaping ragged hole
like a log got shot through
More vacant faced kids
 like in Deliverance
Time to get out of there
 but have to drive by the local industry
 a coffin factory
with a big bonfire of tires in the yard
Up the hill through an open field
 pity the poor kids in winter
 getting off the bus
trudging head down
into that blast from Canada