SAMPLER
Scar

a poem by

Carrie Etter

Shearsman Books
i.m. Peter Reading
at my beginning: prairie

at my beginning: a town called Normal

on the far horizon cornfield upon cornfield splayed

flattened by tornado

stunted stalks, palest soil under a heavy sun

soybeans submerged in water

but no— not far:

today, tomorrow
so here’s The White House’s “Fact Sheet: What Climate Change Means for Illinois and the Midwest”

its list, its gist

the volume’s rising:

more heat
more pests
more disease
more extreme weather events:

- tornado
- drought
- flood
- heat wave
- blizzard

O Illinois—
more tornadoes

one scours a half-mile-wide path through Fairdale
flattens / twists / hurls homes / cars / a child’s treehouse
its scar in the earth visible

from space
(off-page I am

feline slink,

butterfly shiver,

fish glide, I am

animal amid)