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# Malfunction

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## Malfunction

One time  
my dad  
told me a story  
of a co-worker  
on the assembly line  
who specialized  
in putting tires  
on semi-trucks.  
Twenty sandpaper years had  
scratched and scarred  
his hands.

On this day  
as his finger-instruments  
placed  
Another bolt  
on  
Another tire  
on  
Another truck,  
he collapsed.

The Line  
ground to a reluctant halt  
as paramedics  
tried to revive him,  
tried to re-hire a heart  
that had reached the fifteenth day  
of its two-week notice.

When his limp body  
was carried off,  
his co-workers stared  
for a moment.  
Then  
the Line lurched,  
impatient.  
There were trucks to be made.  
They filled his spot,  
replaced him  
like a loose screw.

And collectively,

the machines turned back  
to their trucks,  
their reflections  
imprisoned  
in the bright paint  
of their creations.

Cody Tucker