

news of smoke from the war

the boy is behind the couch
pissing against the wall, and his sister
is wringing her hands, listening

to the boy explain how firemen
unravel great hoses from huge trucks
and put fires out like this

a mountain three hundred miles away is loud
with soldiers digging out roads and building
factories for planes and tanks and medicine

in the hospital the doctor folds
freshly laundered drapes – nothing else is happening –
just smoke and news of smoke from the war

from *Mudsong*