Long Division

The smoke kept the snow from falling onto the growing mass of oil and pine wood and maple. Birch trees shook in the yellowing light, mixed between the dying of the day and the growing of the fire. Divisions cracked amongst the wood, and ash insinuated itself into the snowline.

Kerosene lamps grew soot at the edge and the glass shattered. Lovers plunged headlong into wedges and split like logs kept burning from the inside out. Here, a house burned to the ground and the forest reached upwards like bare radii and ulnas, forearms that showed scars from the cutting, as someone called it done and cracked their limbs in two.