

KEVIN DUCEY

relativity

I.
WORKING along the highway
the overgrown path

we lose the way in
Isaiah foretelling

the light already in motion
toward us

certainty in physics
Dante watches the two

wretches playing table
tennis on the train moving

through a neighborhood of
hell, yet the little white

ball refuses to move—light
years of brooding ahead.

2.
MORNING when the details
of seeing collapse

Matter never so simple
the inventor

in frustration
retreats to cement

factory. He sulks
ten years, blowing

rocks to gravel with
dynamite. That

repugnant flat world—
light it up. Move

that mountain. His
genius would

shatter stone opens
only surface.

3.
READING the Synoptic
Mary refuses the

angel at the cave where
they'd laid Jesus' body

—the sepulchre. She demands
to see the body: "Produce—

Produce the corpse,
motherfucker," she says and

the angel throws down
on her and grapples her.

Our worser angels
cheat when at wrestling

and she breaks his
hold (the angel's only

one angel against Magdalene
—*the* Magdalene). She

rushes into the cave, calling
“help me, help me, Jesus,”

but the grave is empty,
only the rustle of her breath.