

Kobayashi, K. Born in Manzanar, 1943

Daniel Aristi

dad Koji was a *meka* – a battle robot.
poor mom Claire, first she tried to be so small
and be inside his head but, in fine,
they both expanded in tidy parallel
never intersecting.

and three children that lived in the air pocket
in between.

dad's eyes, like a knife cut, could (not) have they bled, sometimes?
in his chest, there's still the reactor burning –
at night, it projects a tiger stare in the bedroom ceiling
wide, tired open.

NOTE: Manzanar War Relocation Center, CA, was an internment camp where over 110,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated between 1942 and 1945.