



Image from Auto Express

David E. Howerton

—When you expect clean air—

Smell of old oil overheated
loaded logging truck
slowly speeds up canyon

Nose and eyes burn
breathe out slow and
drink old coffee which
counteracts smell quite well.

Gray clouds part
sun comes out
and a red-tailed hawk,
flying between, calls.

Just another autumn weekday
in the American River Canyon.

David E. Howerton lives near Auburn, California. He writes that “his hobbies include type design, soapstone carving, walks in the woods, dragons, and a growing library of Science Fiction.” His poem “—When you begin paying attention—” appeared in the Spring 2022 issue of *Caveat Lector*.