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Role Playing

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Nathan Bartos

Role Playing

inspired by Kwame Dawes

Late at night, after the slow farewells
on the front steps of a house that is becoming familiar,
and you're thinking one last kiss will be fine,
like a stage kiss,
but his lips hit the corner
of your mouth because it's dark and he closed
his eyes too soon,
and he giggles but your eyes
dart to the pavement like birds to a feeder and you don't
make a sound, and he doesn't notice
this silent regret because it's nearly pitch black now
and maybe he can see it, you wonder,
but maybe he wipes the image away
while you wipe the sweat off of your forehead,
and you start to walk away but he grabs
your hand and you yank it away and run
and that run feels like freedom
but that run feels like pain.