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## City Of

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## Ever since in the early fall we walked

Benjamin Holland

Ever since in the early fall we walked  
along that hill and thought of talking,  
but let our thoughts pool in our minds  
and kept walking

under the many stars  
and tall pines, and we stopped at a young one  
to tear down vines that were beginning  
to choke and then she spoke—

ever since that night I  
have loved her.

## City Of

Julia Petruch

This City of Strangers . . .

of vacant chairs between bodies.  
of artificial diligence.  
of doors that slam in front of you.  
of smug faces, and even smugger places.

This City of Solitude . . .

of “table for one.”  
of gray, looming skies and constant winter.  
of under-eye circles and half-empty glasses.  
of worn-out haunts and worn-out names.

This City of Heartbreak . . .

of shattered love, scattered love.  
of fluorescent lights on your sallow cheeks.  
of single means crazy and good means taken.  
of lonely means safe and better safe than sorry.