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Eugene

Sara Benes
College of DuPage

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I can see you hiding
behind concordant wisps
of burgundy curls
and big-city smog.
I can see you through
the relentless Chicago snowstorms
that keep me locked up
in my own head
yearning for summer sunshine
and West-coast weather.

On lonely nights
I think of you
dressed in flowered skirts
and forgotten promises.
In my mind
we are the mismatched lovers
of a romantic drama:
I, the gray Midwest
and you
my childhood dream
wrapped in a Pacific breeze
and tied together
with the words from my pen.

Someday
I will wake up in your embrace
and plant kisses on
your perfect eyelids.
Only then will my hardened lips
melt into a smile.

For the first time in my life
I'll be home.