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Northern Lights

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MARDELLE FORTIER

northern lights

vibrate like a living thing
in the unreachable sky of Minnesota.
They dance and flicker
and tell of high adventures
beyond our grasp.

Pale lovely hair streams behind them
as they seek fallen warriors
for the golden courts of Vallhall,
the maidens of the Valkyrie ride
out of Norse sagas.
Thor reaches down with strong
fingers and the heavens throb
in mystical eerie green
while Viking ships fly past
graceful, white-sailed, writhing
with serpents and dragon-heads.
And what is that strange dim animal
with eight dancing legs?
Out of a dark cloud
a mysterious figure comes riding
on his magical horse.
Before the emerald curtains close,
I grasp upwards with clinging fingers.