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It Was Around Midnight

Joshua Cooper

It was around midnight. I sat outside looking at the stars. This simple act can be a distraction. The universe spans out, innumerable polka-dot lights, scintillating, and the wandering mind can begin chasing thoughts, where not everything is entirely explicable, where serious implications arise, serious questions, quandaries, ideologies challenged, or, simply, wonder.

Either way, it was around midnight. I sat outside looking at the stars. In the distance I could see a girl, a woman really, walking along the sidewalk. There was a streetlamp. She walked through the light. She cast a shadow. I knew she was real. Women such as these can be a distraction. The long legs. The persona as object. The mask held up tight against the face. The body the set. Moving, toward and away, through the light. The body moves. The girl, a woman really, walks along the sidewalk, her shoes thumping, rhythmically against the concrete, the stars over her head.

It was still around midnight. Time had not really elapsed. Is time even real? It can bend. And it is truly just a distraction, sitting, long hours, looking at the wrist watch, the clock on the wall, the big hand moving slowly, imperceptibly, just standing still. Space, time, curvatures, curvatures of women, the stars set in space, time, midnight, not moving, the curvature bending time, the curve moving along the sidewalk, the timing of steps, the beat, the move, the light, bouncing, flowing, through space, the continuum, the plain, hills, moving atop and across, beaming, glowing, scintillating in the night, at midnight, the sun on the opposite end of the earth, the earth moving, through space, and time, and women walking along its surface, at midnight, past a house, with a clock on the wall, I look at my wrist, not a watch, nothing, a wrist, hairs, mammalian, a gorilla, a beast, a primate, a monkey, an ape, a chimpanzee, humans, homo sapiens, homo sapiens sapiens, evolved, women, telling time, walking in shoes, in time, under stars, that are still misunderstood.

It was midnight and I looked down at my feet.