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Books

Roberta Stewart
College of DuPage

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Books

by Roberta Stewart

Multiplying on shelves in stores
breeding like rabbits
populating a world of ideas
waiting to be picked up read forgotten
replaced by a shiny new spine

with bright letters and a catchy title
one that tells you
    how to do it
    where to go
    what happened
draws you into its pages in fantasy
come hither fingers and enveloping embrace
reach out from between the covers
seductive
they find their way into my arms
with promises of excitement
    intrigue
    escape
    information
and set down before the gatekeeper
ka-ching
extracts a price and
my plastic lays down in compliance
pinched by strangers’ hands
run roughshod through plates
its soul read in a second’s scan
books in a bag
heavy with promise
swing at my side
brushing my thigh
it is the last
they’ll beckon from a new home
congregate on new shelves
spines lined up
fade seduction into a blur of colors
brief infatuations
left longing for a finger’s caress
now fortify each other
pages yellowed
squirreled away concubines
they hold their promise of a rainy day
that never seems to come