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## Stalker

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# Stalker

– Constance Vogel

I hear him in the dead  
white noise of phone calls,  
rustling in the evergreens,  
footsteps on the walk behind me.

I see him  
in each stranger's smirk,  
a look that lasts too long,  
lilies he sends every Friday  
with unsigned cards.  
Like ions in the air -  
everywhere.

I fear him as the teaser  
who slows his car on railroad tracks,  
the romantic who walks me to the end  
of piers at midnight,  
the host who tries to capture me  
in the bottom of his glass.

But most of all, I dread  
the day I find him,  
a man like any other,  
one of the stoop-shouldered briefcase crowd,  
ordinary as paint.