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The Next Smile

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PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR YOUNG FEMALE POETS: AN IMAGE DEFINED*

Force dark imagination and soul to battle
in a game of tug-of-war.

Gamble with life and point at death
with a smirk.

Black joe:
internal rhythm snaps and awakens.

Drain pain from others and filter it
through the tip of a Bic and
a stained napkin.

Construct unpredictable lines.
Yell them.

Hold tongue when questioned.
Communicate and glare with squinty eyes.

Build intuition upon itself.

Sail above standardized worlds with
black and white photograph
in hand.

Hide in the lofty shadows of day
and revive yourself
the moment
they surrender.

Lie about innocence.

— *Sarah Tasic*

*Inspired by Beau Blue's
"Practical Advice for Young Male Poets."

THE NEXT SMILE

Just like a shoe
Lost under a bed
And needing to be recovered,

It's always there
Right under a nose,
Just waiting to be discovered.

— *Carole Ann Spinelli*