The Next Smile

Carole Ann Spinelli

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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.”

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**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