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## First Love

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## FIRST LOVE

On her couch, he spends the seeds of his youth.  
And her face, a flower forever young, takes its roots  
in every quiet moment.  
He sees it still in the glow of dashboard lights and  
moonlit nights.  
He touches her mouth again  
a red rose at the moment of opening.  
He sees her eyes blue irises  
growing wide and glowing.

Then disenchanted petals eyelash close.  
Discontent growing  
in the purse of her lips.  
Withering frost.  
Augur of a cold lonely season.

But it's always her, just her,  
that comes to him in winter dreams.  
Loving and mocking.  
Changing and constant.

For his heart is still hers  
though their paths lie far apart.  
A face he hides from the world  
is never hidden from her.

His first love.

— *Gerald Ryan*