For Lack of a Hero

Jessica Shubert
College of DuPage

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Hit And Run
Amy Peter

Someone’s uncle, 
Someone’s father, 
Someone’s husband of nearly 30 years; 
met an untimely end staring into headlights. 
He didn’t deserve to die at a speeding car’s mercy. 
Even if he’d been more visible, 
it still might not have stopped. 
The driver that blew through the crosswalk 
didn’t give the man a second thought. 
Hit and runs are a tragedy, 
but they happen every day. 
As long as people are so rushed; 
neither car nor man look both ways. 
The family doesn’t know who killed him, 
and they probably never will; 
but that doesn’t mean they’ll stop searching. 
Justice for the hit and run killer, 
and the victim gone too soon.

For Lack of a Hero
Jessica Shubert

Pigeons scattered as the gentleman with the tailored suit walked up 
to where the woman sat on a flattened Coke box, plucking a banjo. A 
nickel or dime would drop into a cap crumpled on the sidewalk occasion- 
ally.

“You’re six cents out of tune, my dear,” the gentleman said. 
“And sixty cents short of a sandwich,” she replied without stopping.

He glanced around, sniffed, and left. 
When he returned, he set the sleek case down and opened it, 
smiling self-consciously. She shifted for him to join her, cross-legged 
on the cardboard stage. The banjo led and the violin played along.