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How You Came to Live After She Abandoned You With Soy Sauce

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How You Came to Live After She Abandoned You With Soy Sauce

P. Kim Bui

When the locusts fell from your eyes
and the soy sauce dribbled from your chin
your daughter wiped your mouth
and shooed the locusts away
she has long left you now
off in her own fantasy world
There
there is no mother
father
family
she left you behind for a small syringe
and you wonder where you went wrong
her laugh echoes in the hallway
and a half empty glass of orange juice makes you cry for her
somewhere gone from here
Blame becomes a bouncing ball
a balloon floating from one person to the next
if it had not been for ballet lessons in the third grade
she would not have left you
and the marinating chicken on the counter
alone
If her father had not eaten that fish
and died of a reaction to news that would not come for two weeks
she would not be laughing
paranoid
in a corner of the world you can only dream about
She darts her eyes from side to side
asking if you are talking about her
and she leaves you
alone with the box elder bugs
and your soy sauce
In time
you will place the blame upon yourself
even though she really did it because she cried for her unborn child
and the small needle took the pain away
It had nothing to do with ballet
her father
the chicken
or soy sauce.