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Gentleman

José Angel Araguz
Linfield College

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GENTLEMAN

by José Angel Araguz

As his eyes follow each beat across each heart monitor,

each flinch on the face of a man

going eighty on the freeway

when his cigarette drops,

Death—gentleman who dog-cared the eyes of my father

as he died in prison

and stuffed what he would have said to me

down into dark pockets—

slips blank pages throughout the stories I write,

and leaves black spots where I would remember,

where I falter after

what the rude word might be

that leaves the night done,

makes the birds fall.