

We Had Lobster That Day

the sun was so bright in Buffalo
his teeth were glimmering
no trees and no shade
our shadows were so short they could only
be stepped on by our own feet

there was no marital bed for us in the world
not even a hotel room
that could keep our broiling bodies
his palms were sweating
so we could barely hold hands

we went our separate ways after having lobster
he took the plot of a movie
and warned me I needed to understand forgetting
he said you have forty-five days to find
a more suitable companion or else
you'll get yourself
eaten up

I waited for him in Buffalo
all night long
I dreamed of a silver airplane flying into
my body
and waking up found that
the sheets were stained red
as if it were my first period

Silk Trees

the shadow moves along
with the sun
mom and I switched places three times
before finally sitting
on that bench where
grandma passed out and didn't wake up
that was on the north side of the square
between two silk trees
mom described it to me simply
that early spring afternoon
what time she got there
where the doctor was squatting while administering cpr
then we talked about her life
and my life
the kids flying around the square
like so many loaches
sliding into the sea of sunlight
when mom mentioned
me having kids
I sat in closer to her
to make room to the left of us
for grandma and my kids
to sit there too