
POETRY | FALL 2015

Borrowed Car

By Lisa Kerr

We take Lombard toward North Beach
in a borrowed car, climbing higher each block

until we reach the red-brick road,
a chutes and ladders of pastel houses.

Blue stone under thrusting bougainvillea.
Pink stucco, a home of small ears.

We crest the steepest hill, see only hood as we tilt,
pray the pavement will rise up to meet us.

Tomorrow my body will become a borrowed car.
But we do not know this yet.

Tomorrow we'll miss our afternoon flight home
because the call comes: *Just one more test to confirm it.*

You'll make our plans for a later departure.
Carless now, we'll stay in, get room service.

On our new flight, a couple we saw quarreling
in Chinatown will be seated one aisle over.

Reconciled, they'll float into each other
and away like lanterns in a gathering storm.

They'll push their palms together
into one shared fortune,

kiss like bright cars crashing

Lisa Kerr Dunn is an associate professor of writing and humanities at the Medical University of South Carolina, where she is a faculty member in the Writing Center and serves as chair of the University Humanities Committee. A scholar of American literature and a creative writer, she has published numerous works as Lisa Kerr, including an illness-themed poetry chapbook titled *Read between the Sheets*. Most recently, she edited an anthology titled *Mysterious Medicine: The Doctor-Scientist Tales of Hawthorne and Poe* (Kent State University Press in 2016).

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