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Changeling on Bleeker Street (Greenwich Village 1969)

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Changeling on Bleeker Street

Greenwich Village 1969

Sundays he wrote poetry, weed drying in a warm oven, seeds popping — his bags

always good, lots of flowers, female plants not cheap sterile highs off males. His bong waiting

turn against the wall — filled with the same ripe wine from last month — Ripple maybe.

I can't count the number of times I placed my lips, soft on his and gave him a shotgun from a roach hoping his pleasure as great as mine,

a natural gesture - and yet we were never intimate even when we swam naked in the same lake

by moonlight. Somewhere in a farmer's field in an offbeat rural town.

I remember its smells, the colors of its lovers dancing, but not its name.

By the end of the third year, by winter's chill

I went uptown chasing a job I couldn't possibly get high heels hollow echo, tiptoeing

away - into the city. That was the month
the wind in me broke loose from my chest
and I moved uptown.

I guess I looked down and noticed my breasts were growing. We who never realized we had anything to lose. I knew everything about you.

I knew nothing.

-Tara-Kelly Walworth