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## --catching up--

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*—catching up—*

a summer away from me,  
 we reencountered one another.  
 and something about coffee shops,  
 good-night-cigarettes,  
 and her boyfriend's little mutt  
 (i bet he hated me  
 when he found out  
 about that night)

on a tin roof  
 under the Nashville sky,  
 we weaved something  
 beauteous—  
 we made a story blanket!  
 with and without fathers,  
 always through the worst of love,  
 and upward into rebellion—  
 the sky must have been brilliant,  
 for the deepest and  
 dreamiest of me  
 still listens to her.  
 it's good that i brought  
 that Aristocrat.  
 cheap, yes,  
 but the burn  
 inside,  
 there is something truly wonderful.

of us,  
 and the fourth grade,  
 that's the part we  
 couldn't remember—  
 kids,  
 and on a breezy afternoon,  
 not far from the monkey bars  
 and nearer to the swing-set,  
 i gave her my Tommy Hilfiger jacket.  
 either her freckles  
 or the way she wore her glasses  
 had captured

my fourth-grade heart—  
 truly a love for me,  
 far away and wandering,  
 i dreamt of her,  
 then a call  
 and a summer,  
 i promised to visit her.  
 all is all.  
 but life is never done.  
 the summers rush on.  
 and on.  
 and on.

*—Gabriel Baldessari*