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halloween

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MEGHAN CALLAHAN

halloween

i remember what you said that night
you were drunk
surprise surprise
eyes
usually so gentle green growing things
hazy with the cheap scotch and too many budweisers
bruise between them where you'd smashed the last can
against your forehead
knock some sense into your skull next time
your eyes were green
jaded

and your sentences were slurred by captain morgan
and all his closest friends
underscored by the harsh unreal sweetness of coke

"i love you"
you said with a crooked smile
jack-o-lantern face
candle lit inside your mouth guttering

and the harshness of my cigarette smoke
kept my heart chained down
to my tar-caked lungs
the acrid tang of reality

trick or treat?

you laughed too loudly

and i never really believed
in Halloween.