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Rick on His Way to Rachel

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Rick on His Way to Rachel

M. Nasorri Pavone

Rick began this trip by getting
dressed. He doesn't mind
that it takes longer now,
or that he has to think
when he walks, or stroke
more than his chin
for the rough spots.
When he touches himself,
it's almost like caressing
his wife who cries
from across town.
For a long time he felt
what the gambler felt before
placing a bet,
Now or never, now or never.
These days he trains
with a gender therapist
who delivers the practice blows
and kicks as Rick
learns how to shield
his swelling breasts so he can
take it, take it like a Rachel.