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## Paid Postage Stamps

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## Paid Postage Stamps

I traced myself finding you  
between the margins  
with the paper-flipped cartoons.  
The inertia motion carries  
you through the page numbers  
from apartment to apartment.  
The river diminished these Midwest hills.  
You're plied towards the center o  
and left me in-ground and bolstered with commas  
as consolation for the winter away.  
I'm sorry, but I've indulged  
in the image of you  
drawn in black-dress yawns,  
baleened in the light behind you.  
For a minute a paper lantern  
offers warmth and drifts away,  
  
alight and smoldering in inks,  
except I've never seen you  
in a dress outside those lines,  
except on your birthday  
black leggings and all.  
I love you  
for this intimate rebellion.  
  
When all love inevitably  
ends with an asterisk,  
your love breaks the keys.

*Wes Solether*

