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Elephant

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Elephant

Benjamin Aleshire

Ryan Chighizola Prize Winner

If the heart is a building —
 (with its chambers & atriums)
my mother my architect built for me
 a palace.

But there are too many rooms
 & no one inside them dancing
 so many mirrors & undisturbed pools.

A beautiful thief is coming soon
 to plunder me I know it
(I can feel her even now scaling up my walls,
 leaving a map of her bare prints
 through the rows of my hushed gardens)

for Isabella