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Caffeine

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Caffeine

Mary Simon

That first sip of coke
Feels like drinking
Thousands of tiny, annoyed
Jellyfish. That sting the top
Of your mouth, then attack the sides
Of your cheeks. Tickling, trickling,
Down your throat, annoyed jellyfish
Tingles take over your body.
Until your face squeezes and
Your eyes squint, but
Instead of screaming, you
Laugh. Because tiny stinging jellyfish
Will help you stay up to study.

Likewise, the first sip
From a piping hot cup of coffee,
Can soothe the sleepy soul.
Whether it's a dark and bitter liquid,
Or paled with milk, or spiced with
Cinnamon and sugar, hot coffee
Slides down the mug the same,
And as it touches the tip of your tongue,
There is a shock. But as you ease
Into the steaming liquid, it rolls down your
Mouth, and the water vapor
Rising from the cup,
Feels like opening
A bag of popcorn,
Fresh out of the microwave, keeping
Your face close to feel the warmth of
Puffing air and water vapor, as it
Escapes from the bag and fills your nose.
So similarly, coffee, with its rolling vapor,
Fills your nose with the aroma of
Almond milk, cinnamon,
And more time, late at night
To finish that last chapter.