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Sublimation

Lauren Burgess
University of New Orleans

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Sublimation

Lauren Burgess

Ryan Chighizola Prize Winner

Inspired by Richard Siken's "Scheherazade"

Take me to a place where the bodies don't sit in the water for days,
but flutter as moths from the skin.
The particles that slough off, into dust, vapor wings that dance in flurries.
There's a better way to have a picnic than to swallow glass jars,
there must be a way to decay that doesn't involve a hot and slow turning
of corpse axes, sunlight heating the spinning bits until
they split
like hairlines.
Tell the coroner we're going for something new. This calls for dancing, this calls open
the bloated bellies of stars.
This is the farewell, the after process, pieces of softly flying body.
Where I, as wings, don't molt into water.
This is how I choose to get out.