



R.T. Castleberry

## See You Again (This Side or the Other)

I chance the desolate valley –  
winter briar, barren stem,  
short storms that strike a river road.  
Fence lines frost as mountain winds  
swirl a screening fog.  
Campfires at the ice-checked border  
condense light to cigarette tip, to solitude.

I take fall for my favorite season,  
winter as my due –  
cherish burning colors,  
a chill and perishing silence.  
Cancelling language, there is always the sky,  
belittling as it beckons, bereft of mercy.  
You bring shrugs and silences to my house,  
seacoast hustles, photos of a third husband.  
I read for errors, for the cynical, the sinister,  
spot you driving near the dog track,  
sleet spattering a new, borrowed car.  
I mistrust your insurrection aphorisms,  
the mother-tainted memoir –  
and yet you fascinate like flowing water.  
Sweating in discard silk,  
you sleep like a deathbed bride,  
the hangman's oldest child.

Sirens bleed out long blocks away.  
Patrol beams splash on ice-glazed river piers.  
Stressing a revolutionary's pose,  
you are in transit, in transition,  
waiting the week for air lanes to recover.  
"Tell me how you sinned," I whisper.  
"How Egypt features in your fears."

Airspace will clear,  
a taxi will take you for departure.  
I'll strip the linens, change the locks,  
wait to wake from my pillow  
at your early morning mystery call.

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R.T. Castleberry is a widely published poet and social critic. He was a co-founder of the Flying Dutchman Writers Troupe, co-editor/publisher of the poetry magazine *Curbside Review* and an assistant editor for *Lily Poetry Review* and *Ardent*. In 1999, his work was chosen for the Metro Downtown Transit Streets Project "Texts In Context," in Houston, Texas. His chapbook *Arriving at the Riverside* appeared in 2010; an e-book, *Dialogue and Appetite*, in 2011.