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Reciprocal Hurt

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PARKER REID

Reciprocal Hurt

Your mother holds herself,
 fingers grip
her skin like clay
 cracks in the sun,
crumbles
if you let it
go.
Crimson beads run the length of
 your body shivers,
ping
 pong
down
 baby hair
lined legs pinned
 beneath the dash of your
gender in transition:
 a car
crash between a Prius
 and a semi where you
aren't sure if you are
the dented metal frame or
 the cause of
the weights that fill
your chest that heaves,
 your lungs not sure
who needs the oxygen.