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## A Guide to Recognizing Your Ghost

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SAVANNAH SKINNER

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The night you ascended  
the stairs with our wet clothes clutched to your chest,  
we saw the ghost your mother saw  
when she decided you were missing.

When I was outside your window, you said you recognized me  
by the back of my neck, said you knew  
the days were over when your father untied his boots

at night. I tell you whole truths after you fall asleep  
in the hallway & know you can't hear  
my voice over radio static, whole truths  
I can't tell you while your eyes are open.

When we drove past the mural they painted over  
last year in red, I told you I was recreating  
the first sounds you ever heard outside

your mother's oceanic deafness: your father's  
Darth Vader impression, his muffled voice

