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Twelve Years

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TWELVE YEARS

STACIA HILL

to weave between hardwood ponies
floor glazed and shined gold
electric bubble light-bulbs popping
dragons breathe music box melody
whirring in air, catching dingy rings
of hard plastic in hooked fingers
horse hair manes stiff to touch
toes hooked in iron stirrups

ice water slips over under between
sand speckled toes, polished blue
ocean unromantically cold
wind blown sand littered
with carcasses of dead crabs –
gulls gather, rubber kelp draped
beside shattered sand dollars,
dried jellyfish

rain falling flowing into an ocean
where wishing stone crabs tickle
the sand with small sharp toes. mirrored
walls of buildings complement each other,
withstanding wet rust. stone walls green
from algae and crumbling bit by bit.

air warm and humid – vapor blanket
wrapped around shoulders, gentle rays
of sunset evenings by the lake. palms fan
overhead, paper strips peeling away
from the trunks. night heat running
on sidewalks, glossy cars dot streets
dancing under lights, tasting lemonade

sapphire jeweled lizards
scrape slowly against hot stones
dry air enters the lungs
easily, a lightness only found
in warmth.

imagine the feeling of flames
against skin as a million fireflies
hover in stasis between trees
of woods. steps squelch in water.
under clove scented leaves
small orange salamanders wait