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Eraser Lips

Emmie Bristow

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ERASER LIPS

EMMIE BRISTOW

Eraser lips like to smile
pink and firm and remain
closed like curtains...

Eraser lips like to be bitten
when alone and allowed
to drain rust blood
onto stained white teeth...

Eraser lips like to brush
against skin, feel muscles
relax, taste salty sweat
and cool the trembles
from family, work, and liquor...

Eraser lips like to kiss
owies from falling?
tripping? being thrown?
down the stairs onto

cement basement floors
which mop up easily...

Eraser lips like to open
their curtain sometimes—
feel screams vibrate
when no one's home
and let the dry air chap
and tear at their soft
eraser exterior...