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## Hell Fire Cheeks

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## Hell Fire Cheeks

by Emmaline Bristow

She stands to the wind, dark hair  
    lofting against covered  
neck. Blood red  
                    cheeks seem to boil  
            like Hell's fire waiting  
in sidewalk cracks, burning  
up even the fire ants  
    as they crawl toward cool,  
                    dewy grass. But she seems to stay  
    cool, wrapped up in her cashmere  
blue scarf, waiting for the bus  
in the sloppy spring weather.  
    Only he's felt those cheeks  
    before, hot like tar  
burning his spine  
    (might as well add  
                    a few feathers).  
Sometimes he wishes  
    she'd open her mouth  
                    and show that fire inside;  
wishes she'd  
    scorch someone else for a change.