Fall 1986

The History of Someone Else

Michael Rattee

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The women who loved him
recall his face as the sound
of a few certain words
his hands as a shaking
inside their purses
they think of him as forever
forgetting names and addresses
forever leaving his shoes
outside their doors
pointing towards the street
filling with either dust or rain
each of them
remembers him the same
though the words differ
the shaking either larger or smaller
still they would recognize him
sitting in a nursing home
holding an old purse
convinced that his memories
are the history of someone else
he knows there were women
who helped contain him
streets that kept changing
beneath his ruined shoes
but has forgotten the words
he used to say for love
the amount he would take
to regain his senses