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Blue and Green

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Blue and Green

Her favorite present is a blue glazed bowl
filled with limes, like leaves curled in a palm of wave.

She touches the blue dress, sees the gray lake,
but in mid-sentence she forgets his name.

Behind her, the huge trunk of a ponderosa pine
disappears into long-needled branches.

In the house, upstairs, behind the chifferobe,
hides a trunk filled with her dead brothers' things:

a football trophy, several textbooks, a school annual,
three photos that show how brothers can look like sons

of different parents. Her father, the patriarch
in a cream suit, will be dead in two years.

Her mother will live lonely with her biases.
Now, surrounded by ceremony, the name of the man

she hopes to love escapes her. She hears
rain on a green tent in Brittany. She sees

a cabin on Thompson River, blue water, she feels
his strong hands. She remembers his name.

Robin Hamilton