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Affection

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Cover Page Footnote

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AFFECTION

BY NIKI GAULIN

Soft kisses upon my brow
wet, cool, and pure,
like dipping my fingers in
semi-sweet chocolate icing
as if I were eight again.
The chilling caress of the rain
brushes over my ripened cheeks
soaking my ruddy-blond hair,
and drips like a loose faucet
off of my nose and over my lips.
Trickles to showers
as I stand colder than bedsheets
not slept in,
waiting for nothing but
everything at once.
Droplets of cloud borne rain
stick to my eyelashes
like and old lover's lingering kiss.
I feel safe and wanted
under the shower of this
undaunted affection.
Yet rain— cold, unforgiving, miserable,
like love can be—
reminds me that sometimes I am
only human.