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## On Love

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*Faculty/Staff Flowers*

**Apples and Oranges**

Waking to darkness and senseless cold makes us  
recoil on the edge of our beds until we make our leap  
to swipe the snooze button on the radio--

Dumbstruck,  
the numbers flip to 5:12 a.m. on the red dial, and  
we curse under our breath, the ungodly beauty  
of our creased faces, hair stuck flat to our heads...

Downstairs,  
under the kitchen light, we meet: My daughter,  
head-bent, snatches a green apple and bites--  
tartness puckers her lips; she chews thoughtfully  
her eyes open wide and wider-- watching  
me watch toast-- the slice she'll filch off my plate  
and I'll be left with one, and a minute  
to talk to her...

She disappears before  
light fills the sky; and I'm in the doorway,  
moving backwards in her steps to stand  
again in the kitchen before the basket:

I pick  
the orange, and peel open its bumpy-side;  
let it blossom slowly.



*M.J. Iuppa*

(First appeared in *The Comstock Review*.)