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Asphalt Grave

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Cover Page Footnote

"Second Prize" Appeared in the issue: March 2000.

Second Prize

Asphalt Grave

There lies a cross at an intersection:
memorial of some woman I would never know,
just her story in newsprint tragedy.

My tires are dishonestly tacky against the wet cement,
sound like flypaper escapes.
They are boats on this sound asphalt sea.

Headlights smear in front of me.
This corner is a holy place,
and I am now a mourner.

My wipers lap against the windshield
like a dog's panting tongue,
a hymn for a moment at the stoplight.

Boundary lines blur in rain and reflection
On the cross that lies at an intersection.

--Leslie Karla