

No Prince

By John Thiemeyer

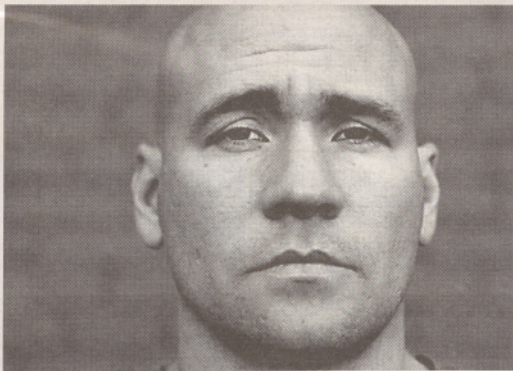
beneath the window there's noisy fumbling,
 someone is fooling
 with the lids
 on the dull blue and green plastic bins
 searching for treasure in Thursday night's trash
 before the morning's pickup.
 I pick up the blind and peek down
 a woman with hair as gray and long
 as a street covered with old snow
 is looking for cans and bottles, recyclable
 if they were there
 but they aren't
 until she senses me overhead
 and looks at me with her hand raised
 like a wand she was waving, or a salute, or
 shading her eyes at midday in July,
 not a freezing night in early December,
 and the lone streetlight out and the street a featureless void,
 and she follows where I'm pointing, picks
 the empties from the low shade of the bedraggled Daphne
 one by one putting them soundlessly into her plastic
 black leaf bag, a muffled prize, short of a kingdom –
 'and I'm not Rapunzel either,' I mutter,
 knowing she can't hear me down there
 and will return in a week, prince or no prince.



By Pete Yahnke Railand

"Meteorologists ought to have to list their phone numbers and addresses on the news when forecasting the weather."

— Jason Breedlove



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