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For Anda Gone

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For Anda Gone
or Anda Gone
Anda Gone
a Gone
one

When I went to the window for you,
Across the board, in the Claiming Maiden,
I placed my money with more luck and skill
Than any man deserves in one lifetime.

Even though you faltered on the far turn
And couldn't go the distance, you won the race
By open daylight, going away. And the
Thought of the way you burst out of the gates
Still brings me to my feet, breathless.

Now I stand at the head of my stretch,
Watching a long-toothed stud, carrying top weight,
Straighten for home. He runs strongly
To the wire, but there is no joy in his stride,
Because he is racing alone, against the watch.

Clifton Shelhas