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Photo

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PHOTO

Brooke Payment

He rambles over the hum
of the projector
tongue clicking
every time he changes slides.
Everything is dark except for flashes
at the front of the room,
the screen glowing pink and orange
on our faces.
He hands back my slide and
in monotone, technical terms
tells me how my night with you went,
scolding me about color.
Lack of exposure.
Too much exposure.

The light apparently was not in my favor
that night
we traipsed on top of the roof at dusk
talking while grabbing handfuls of gravel
and letting it fall through our fingers.

The brick wall kept you from falling
to the city underneath us.

My lids flashed lightly
over my lenses.
My shutter speed complimented
the movement of your breath perfectly.
You were deep
against a sky dusted with black and orange
as the sun sank down to unearthly places.
You . . . off center
the horizon tilted and shook
in my hands.
My verticals off balance with yours
and all I could save was your silhouette.