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Of Possibilities on a Boat

Ashley Hillard

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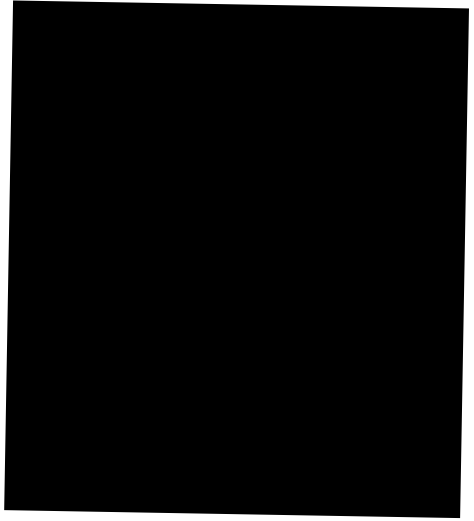
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OF POSSIBILITIES ON A BOAT ASHLEY HILLARD

On the edge of a boat you tender
your dog tags.
I put them around my neck,
their weight on my chest, and begin
to question the boat.
If it sinks and the sea eats
my skin and I turn
variations of green and porous and fish
nibble off eyelash and cloth—
if I was ashore, barely
woman anymore, naked—
if the people of Spain find me
wrapped in your pearls
they might believe, if only slightly—
I am an American soldier, I am you.