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When the Person You Love Treats You Badly

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When the person you love
treats you badly,
stop waltzing.
Check the mirror,
check the stove –
kill the plants you never
watered.

Hide the spare key,
silver and dented from wanting,
inside your left cheek.
It will sit in that pink pocket,
rubbing against brittle
gums and soft resentment,
for maybe forever,
or maybe until next Tuesday.

Don't let the mailman in.

Your pots gleaming in the sink,
clock breaking every midnight,
sermons you wish you'd never heard –

you sing your own body
electric.

You will never fit her
left-behind jacket.
Its pockets bulge with emptiness,
hood draped against your neck,
the loose buttons brushing
your stained clavicles,
descending,
dependent.

WHEN THE PERSON YOU LOVE TREATS YOU BADLY

Emily W. Recchia

RINSE CYCLE

Miranda Lopez

Cast of Characters:

JANE. Mid to late 20s, a student, doing laundry

PETER. Mid to late 20s, a dropout, also doing laundry

Time and Place:

A laundromat in Galesburg, Illinois. The present.