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First Gen

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When she was angry she'd spit out *Schopenhauer*

with an s

as if to make a house of it

"That's what you're reading all the time isn't it?"

standing at the counter spooning canned fruit into bowls

When she was sick we made our peace over late night TV

without the spectre of German philosophers

we could keep the conversation light

I didn't do well in philosophy

I know the simplest answer can be the right one

and that there's always a cat in a box

that what I see is not always what it seems

and I know

I will never make it back to her in time