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Watching the Government at Work

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Watching the Government at Work

Sarah Den Boer

Corpus Christi melting
into Gulf of Mexico
frozen fading into salt

like thousands of tear drops, the island
beach is covered with washed-up jellyfish
gaseous bubbles in cyanic blue chorus
translucent as wax paper
with purple-stitched spines

in the grocery store we buy
only what will keep for three days,
curdled milk a sour lesson
pulp or pulp-free? asked the man
in the juice aisle

we clasp our gallons of orange juice,
walk back to our tent
and see Cubans wash up on the beach
black specks growing into frenzy;
U.S. coast guard tracks down
the beach in minutes
pulls Cubans across the weeping sand

pulp or pulp-free?