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## Beginning

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## **Befogged**

Not little cat-footed  
But giant panther-pawed  
The phantom springs  
Engulps me whole

The road fades  
Disappears  
Behind white-belly walls

And I'm afraid  
I am no Jonah

## **The Remnant**

Alone in the city,  
I try the church doors.  
They are locked.

As I turn down the street,  
A car slows at my side.

Remembering yesterday's news,  
I walk faster,  
My face a dead mask,  
My eyes straight ahead.

Then he pulls to the curb,  
Leans over,  
And says to my back,  
"Miss, the doors open  
In half of an hour."

As I turn in surprised,  
"Thank you, Sir,"  
He smiles back.

## **Beginning**

I caught you looking  
Waved and smiled.  
You smiled back  
And fell in step.

But when your black hand  
Brushed my arm  
(A courtesy  
While mounting stairs)

I started.

Forgive me.