

Wyoming

Katrina Hays

Change is the cruelest savior

- *Greg Glazner*

In the dark outside the bar
Shouts and that woman's shrieking laugh
And the whump-whump of the bad band
Muffled by the mercy of a heavy door

I draw in breaths polluted by the grease trap
Fumble out a cigarette
Flame's brief heat fair penance
For inhaling my death

Snow bites through thin dancing boots
Such red vanities
Invisible Snow King sleeps above
Its solidity a rebuke

Do you follow me out to continue
Oh yes
Yellow Dogs and yearning carry you
Fists stuffed in a Carhartt jacket

I yank down my own Whiskey Daisy haze
But you deliver another electric prod
How that burning feels like grace
Your ring scorching my hand

Still the muffled music and winter stars
Do I snatch you by the throat
Yes I do
Stop words with a fist

Do I drop your body
Yes
Walk out of that alley to my truck
Wipe hands free of your tangle

Drive west until roads stop
and dreams fall down