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To Memories

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To Memories

By: Jessica Merolla

Harsh lines dancing over the skin,
Teasing palms with their ink.
A flash, an anguished shudder,
Leaving with a memory
So fragile and fleeting
That one cannot help but feel
A pang of melancholy
For the face concealed beneath the film.

Your eyes are squinty,
Smushed and smothered beneath thick forehead wrinkles,
Crinkled brows, and an upturned smile.
I've seen this look before; A well-beloved charm
From your masquerade of magic:
A simple spell of humorous disbelief.
One careless glance to create the enchantment,
A thousand more to keep me coming back for more.

I was ensnared, I must admit,
Another look, a glimpse of your artificial sugar
And I'll succumb to the very thing
I loathe to love.

But for a brief moment,
As I hold the Polaroid, hold you
Trapped within the bordered cage
So small in my arms,
I am the one
Who has cast the spell,
And you,
The victim.