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## El Natador

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**Brown Dwarf\***

K. L. DRYK

Your stardust turns to black against the night,  
and sparks then fade to nothing in its place.

A light unborn is frozen in its flight.

Your embryonic gas in gold and white  
and unknown warmth can never quite replace  
your stardust turned to black against the night.

A planet spins away out of your sight  
and never feels the sun upon its face.

A light unborn is frozen in its flight.

The vacuum fails to hear their moaning plight,  
A million lives and futures interlaced.

Your stardust turns to black against the night.

No odes composed for joy, no steel-clad knights,  
no ivory pillars, no exalted race.

A light unborn is frozen in its flight.

Tomorrow broke its promise to ignite  
forgotten suns alone in outer space.

Your stardust turns to black against the night.

A light unborn is frozen in its flight.

\*A nebula that fails to gather enough mass to begin  
nuclear fusion in its core, in essence, a stillborn star.



**EL NATADOR** AMY CARTER