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## Sea of Metal

E. Fleming Pierce

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**a poet after that**

E. Fleming Pierce

after nine years of being a statue  
fingers grab at the still air  
for something to hold on to  
something to pull  
molecules into motion  
inside a closed fist

she was a poet after that

after twenty-eight years of celebrations  
confetti glitter  
flugelhorns  
and broken glass  
her heart burst from  
its bubble

she was a poet after that

after falling from  
the land of enchantment  
and eating  
a poison apple  
and having to  
abandon her castle

she was a poet after that