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Mary Margaret in a Black and White
Photograph

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Mary Margaret
in a Black and White Photograph

Wrapped
Only in a towel
My father's sixteen-year-old sister
Poses, one delicate-boned knee arched
Over the other.

I can almost taste
The metallic screen of the door behind her
Where I touched my tongue
In curiosity as a child myself
Decades later—it was bitter
Like an unripe peach.

Paul M. Bush
3 April 2003