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A Negative of My Brother

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A Negative of My Brother

Regina Durkan

A little boy races toward a giant modern pueblo
Barely knowing how to run, his hands stretch out for balance, frozen.
But the overexposure is dishonest, it disguises the building
As a bright angel awaiting the hug from the child.
Its duplicity is lost upon him.
He doesn't know what he's awkwardly sprinting towards.
He doesn't know it'll smell of cancer and bleach.
He doesn't know behind him, his mother clicks the button
Because she's afraid her son will never be this happy again.
All he knows is that his daddy's in there,
Somewhere resting on a white bed
But he doesn't understand—
Some parts of daddy are missing.