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Distance

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Distance

One in 430 Americans are named Lesley,
and I like to imagine this percentage mirrors

the number of people who own iguanas,
lie about being ambidextrous,

collect Matryoshka dolls, or have received
a neighbor's pornography subscription

in their own mailbox by accident—
which actually happened to me once.

I was thirteen, and slipped the magazine
into the correct box before anyone noticed,

heat rising from the chipped asphalt and collecting in my cheeks
as the slick thighs and breasts fell back into shadow.

On the power line above me, two crows sidestepped,
likewise, keeping their distance.

Lesley Doyle