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The Yellow Eraser (for wcw)

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Burm: The Yellow Eraser (for wcw)

The Yellow Eraser (for wcw)
by Charles F. Burm

The lights bawled out in Washington Square.

I walked around the fountain thinking . . .

 this could be a peach . . .
 this could be a plum . . .

I called you from the corner near the diner and the newsstand to
recite

a poem I heard from a little girl in Queens:

The Yellow Eraser

*so much depends
upon*

*a yellow
eraser*

*on a desk
beside*

*a girl named
Jessica*

Charles F. Burm

Your phone rang through the shadows and I spoke to your machine:

I saved the last black olive
the green one too
for you.

When I finished at the bookstore I almost lost the fruit
so I put it in my pocket and I wrapped my arms around it
and the streetlights all were silent snowing

words and water
plums and peaches
little girls named
Jessica

empty olive jars.