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## Any Kind of Death

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## Brooks: Any Kind of Death

### ANY KIND OF DEATH

Michelle Brooks

I'm ashamed of my teeth now—  
they ache late into the night, have  
trouble chewing big pieces of food.  
Someday I might have to be identified  
by these mangled friends like my  
father was after his body was burned  
beyond recognition. The coroner said,  
teeth can survive any kind of death; it's  
life that ruins them. A man broke my  
jaw many years ago and nothing was  
ever the same. He's probably choking  
down his food just fine these days. Maybe  
pieces get caught in his throat, send him  
to slug down water, sputtering, *I'm fine, I'll  
be okay in a minute*, to anyone who will listen.