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Candy

Patrick Carrington

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Carrington: Candy

CANDY

Patrick Carrington

It's not the casual way he offers
you a drink or the nuclear
glow of the lime rickey

that spooks you, not even
his famished look
as he watches your first sweet

sip. It's the way his eyes move
to your blouse buttons
when your teeth

snap off the maraschino
that makes you realize how long
you've been taking off your clothes

for treats, and you can't help
but quiver and remember
the first time,

that hand out a car window,
the spearmint leaves
and licorice.