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Birth Marks

Jim Daniels

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Daniels: Birth Marks

BIRTH MARKS

Jim Daniels

She was stymied by pizza
but not ice cream. She ordered vanilla
for its sound. She was Queen
of the Isle of *You Decide*.

He had the patience of a thorn
working its way to the surface
and the business sense
of a herd of cattle.

She used her checkbook
to prop up every minor purchase.
He used cash for the benefit
of its traceless disappearance.

In short, he was a bad magician
and she was the nervous assistant.
A match manufactured in a damp swamp.

Yet they set off enough sparks
to produce me out of a hat,
dazed and surprised by applause.

Technically, I can't remember
that far back, but I can make up
a few things, given the lack
of memory, and receipts.