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Somewhere in Illinois

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SOMEWHERE IN ILLINOIS
Travis Mossotti

the single red stoplight
is like a piece of string tied
around a finger, but nobody
in traffic remembers for what;
everyone's eyes are glued
to that zit-faced marquee
changer adding the next big
Hollywood scream letter by
letter until it has overgrown
the Movieplex, and one
local dropout hangs his arm
from the rust of his Ford
like he was dipping his rod
into that shitpipe of a river
Big Muddy come Sunday,
burning a cigarette to honor
all the devout townies who
say movie actors are queers
in their powder makeup and
costumes, bunch of faggots
taking it—until he turns away
from the town's only marquee,
eyes like two splats of bird shit
on the windshield, and, as usual,
the light refuses to change.