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Standing Room Only

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Harmon: Standing Room Only

STANDING ROOM ONLY

**JERMAINE
HARMON**

—for Aviva Bumgardner

1.

I saw my grandmother
in you. She, too, wears
her Sunday best to every
occasion, and says inappropriate
things to unfamiliar people. Costume
furs and a bottle of Elizabeth's
diamonds are her favorites.

2.

When you spoke to her
I saw a recognizable
melancholy in her eyes. The black
of the tunnel matched perfectly
the black of your voice. This black
has played us both. Dusted everything
with an ambiguity marked with a certain scent,
bananas going bad, or
hummingbird must.

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I hear a baby cry. She spits
a mutual foreign language
into the condensed car air.
She passes out her crying
while looking for her father
in the faces of men rushing
to empty seats. I've done this.