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The Funeral

Victoria Kelly

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Kelly: The Funeral

THE FUNERAL

VICTORIA
KELLY

On the night of your uncle's funeral, your mother tells you how the priest drove the wrong way to the cemetery, while both Aunt Sofia and the hearse turned right instead of left, and when they finally met at the gravesite, the priest got out of the car and started yelling at Aunt Sofia, waving his hands and saying, *Why didn't you follow me*, because he was embarrassed, and Aunt Sofia cried and said something in her Hungarian English, and later your father went up to the priest and told him he should be ashamed, she was a woman at her husband's funeral— and when it is all over, across the country, you say the rosary for your uncle at your desk on base, and your work spread out in front of you, and your hands run over the beads and over the papers but instead of Mary's face all you can see is the priest, waving his arms in the cemetery, and your uncle, how he would have laughed if he had been there.