

him

I stood in the dappled light
that filtered through the oak leaves.
They shifted lightly in the hot air,
heavy with the scent
of honeysuckle
and wine.
Waiting for you to appear
as a sailor waits for a beam of light to cut through
the fog at night, leading the way home.

Then, there you were.
One hand clutching that of your mother,
one hand relying on the strength of your father,
tentatively taking that step
from the cobbled stone path
out of the arbor
and into the sun.
Across the lush green grass
bedecked with rose petals
that my niece that thrown for you.
The sweat trickled down my neck and back,
saturating the cloth of the rented tux.
Who wears a three piece anything in July?
For a moment, the noise from the traffic
lumbering along the main country road,
the whispers from the crowd,
familiar faces blending into one,
all of it ebbed away and I saw only you.
The pearlescent beads that adorned your gown
sparkled in a way that was matched only by your
eyes.
You smiled at me and I believed.

In spite of feeling that the heat and the moment
were suffocating,
fearing that when I carefully repeated each vow
my stutter would give me away,
I believed.

I still do.

her

Despite the three layers
of antiperspirant
carefully applied
so that chalky white cakes
don't fall from my armpits-
I'm sweating.

Hours of sitting like a queen
while the worker bees swarmed-
make-up applied to make the me I know
disappear.
Hair coiffed and curled and spritzed and teased.
Sipping champagne and snacking on fresh fruit
all the while waiting for the clock to strike.
But I'm not Cinderella.

The minute I see you there,
Panic swells in my chest.
There is doubt shadowing your face.
But I am an actress.
This is a stage.
We have a performance.
And damn it
we are not pulling the curtain just yet.

I smile.
Reinforcement
My eyes plead,
Remember me.

Despite the pomp and circumstance,
Pastor Wally towering over us,
his bible thick as the wood
of the old oak tree
under which we stand.
Despite the hundreds of guests
ogling us.
I hold your gaze.
Steady you with my eyes.
I grip your hands in mine
and smile.

Despite all this...
Remember me.