

INSTINCT

To see
the runner
in the cold air
at dusk

black
in his tights and
black in his skin

is to see
thin rain
disperse
scattering

sparks
in the night-
fall town.
Down

the long dark street
he sprints
above the pooled
mirror-black

gree-black
sidewalks.
Watched and
watching.

The trees
low
over him.
Their skilled arms

athletic spears
and
showers.
From the dank

air
from the
fog-ridden
atmosphere

he vanishes.
Night
surrounds me
again. Again

the chapel bell
rings in the
night-fall
town

and my eyes bend
their ears
to a running
man.

--Jefferey Beam



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