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## Castellón

Kendra Bopp

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## Castellón

Kendra Bopp

My love resurfaced in Spain,  
on a mid-afternoon  
train caught between  
Madrid and Castellón.

Three boys danced  
around a cassette player. Sony –  
my mind latched onto  
the letters of the familiar name  
rendering them strange,  
ese – o – ene – i griega,  
the internal chant  
became a melody interrupted  
when the youngest boy began to sing  
in accented English  
and I realized their song  
belonged to me,  
to a memory  
so far removed  
that it was barely still mine.

The Spanish countryside melted  
into Arizona desert and I became  
my younger self  
on Canyon Lake, lying next to him  
in the wave rocked boat  
while catfish jumped and  
music lulled us into half-sleep  
under the late August sun.

In Castellón,  
gently shaken by the singing boy,  
I left the desert,  
and the boat,  
and the man  
behind.