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## Saved

Sheryl L. Nelms

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**Sheryl L. Nelms**

**Saved**

On 12<sup>th</sup> Street outside  
the Muehlebach Hotel  
in downtown Kansas City  
a man hunches into the warmth  
of a dirty black trench coat  
his top knot of hair  
flairs out like long white pinfeathers  
prickling his head  
in the iced March wind  
he holds his place on the sidewalk  
going the wrong way  
upstream against the other pedestrians  
we four women break and snake around him

He turns and hollers to our backs  
"I know what you're thinking  
you're thinking that I made  
a pass at you  
but I didn't  
you know I didn't  
that's a sin  
and I'm saved!"

The four of us  
trade stares  
raise our eyebrows  
frown

And sprint into the open door of the Muehlebach Hotel bar.