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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.