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The New Yorker is Publishing My Poem!

David Kramer
Keuka College
Penn Yan, New York

I who wrote one poem in college thirty years ago,

Walked into a cemetery,

Lit my first cigarette in ten years,

And wrote a poem in my mind.

Lacking pen, I found a Starbucks,

Scrap paper and a black Sharpie.

Within fifteen minutes, finis.

The images and dreams

Taken from another person.

But who cares?

Then the letter.

To be published in an upcoming issue.

A complete novice.

Absolutely unprecedented and unimaginable.

The luminaries who grace the pages

Of *The New Yorker!*

Friends and family for the rest of their lives

To be speechless.

The Department of English

In which I serve as an adjunct

To be dumfounded.

I who never play the lottery,

Won the lottery.

The woman

Whose life I borrowed,

Who left me,

Will come back.