**Dogear**

Why didn’t he finish?

Did he not like it, or

D’e just run out of time?

I like it

I’m gonna finish it

For both of us

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Pulled a book from mom’s shelf

Crime novel she must have read

But she said no dad’s the one

He’d read it by her in bed

I pulled a book from mom’s shelf

I pulled a book from mom’s shelf

Page 134’s dogeared

Meaning he didn’t finish

And once I get that I also see

He read and felt from reading

Each of these words before me

I pulled a book from mom’s shelf

Hands holding the book, my feet fall in

his snowprints

Tracking him but

not catching

him, I reach 134

I reach 134 and unfold the corner, smooth it

But does unfolding it disappear him even more?

I imagine he would have

Would have unfolded it too

I imagine he would have

It’s what readers do

If he was in my shoes

He’d have unfolded it too

But what the hell’s the difference

if it’s dogeared or not?

And I move to 135

Still holding the cover

With both of his hands

With both of his hands

10/23/22