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The Dogwood

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The Dogwood

Alyssa Tidwell

It is a slow disrobement at first
casual, then passionate at the rousing of the wind
and stranger I stand – warmly welcomed – beneath her arms
 stepping on the hem of her clean white cloak
She sheds each piece
She paves the ground for me
Me, the young morning admirer.

But my boots, mud caked by belied kindness
My jacket, thorn torn and faded denim
Am I not just a girl the world has touched?
 So I will wash

My hands venture toward her waist
and I see now that blushed blame transfer
lively white hot in my cheeks soaked
 from that crimson-pierced petal
She drapes over me
and I have a new name, and it is
Humble.