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LIAM FERNEY

## BEFORE RACHMANINOFF'S BIRTHDAY

we have different names for the same things  
taken different flights to get to the same airports

& hide  
    our conversations  
with clothes dryers  
like new jersey capos

suspicious of our impending defenestration  
we have had different relations

gathering at funerals  
christmas in suburbs of fat buses  
scrappy parks and a family of bambi

as eager to hide as a parl sec to impress  
clutching her question like an urchin in dickens

how old were they when they gave up dancing  
collected patterns to stitch instead?

