

Sweating Serenity

a *kasen-no-renga* by Rachel Humphrey, Melissa Monten, Jacob Livingston, and Nick Scarpinato

Millikin University

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humid spring air
presses against
slick windows

rh

music plays
to forgotten days

mm

the trickle of my
sleeping sweat starts
slow and ends up flowing

jl

a full moon in the window
beautiful insomnia

ns

gentle light
of the moon
across the bedsheet

rh

lust for you
couldn't come easy

mm

easy to say love
is out of the question
but your image stays in my mind

jl

initials etched into sand
a selfish tide steals love away

ns

pencil scratches
so hard
it rips the paper

rh

tears stain ink
a bloody red

mm

when i want to give up
i see your face in the water
staring back at me

jl

ripples in my reflection
skipping rocks

ns

puddle of water in my hand
reflects
the moon above

rh

a hushed breath
haunting my chest

mm

wind brushes against
my brow, i close
my eyes inhaling the good

jl

a purring little engine
approving my gentle strokes

ns

cherry blossoms
bending in the breeze
tickling each other

rh

dreaming of a place
where night becomes day

mm

if i continue to
sleep, my dreams will
continue to shed light.

jl

warm light covers my face
blooming.

ns

too warm
and stuck...
sweat drips down

rh

sticky fingers
stuck to fearful thighs

mm

i rustle in my sheets,
tossing and turning
trying to stay asleep

jl

grass stains on my shorts
memories of rolling hills

ns

hands drip
with laundry detergent
i toss another load in

rh

lavender dreams
exhale smoky means

mm

i wake from my
dreams memories
dancing in my head

jl

dizzying choreography
these dancers make me sick

ns

flying down
the rollercoaster's hill
the moon grins

rh

intoxicating minds
you can see it in her eyes

mm

i want to scream
but i can't
seem to do it

jl

struggling for air
you take my breath away

ns

i gasp
as the balloon string
slips out of my hand

rh

tossing currents
implode veins

mm

the smell of roses make
the hairs on my arm stand,
i quiver as i drift away

jl

midnight sun sets behind my eyes
serenity.

ns

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rh = Rachel Humphrey
mm = Melissa Monten
jl = Jacob Livingston
ns = Nick Scarpinato