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What Will Become of Him?

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What Will Become of Him?

by Robert Cooperman

As she leads her son away
from my niece, at the wedding,
I hear his mother's calm, coaxing voice:

"Come on, Ronny, don't bother
this nice young lady," his synapses
shortening in an obsession with my niece,
whose hand he kept reaching for
to stroke as if a kitten's soft fur,
as I was about to rescue her.

But his mother takes his arm,
as if a blind man in danger of tripping
over furniture, though I hear her mutter,

"What will become of you?"

And I recall an older cousin,
about whom everyone clucked,

"Slow," when I was metamorphosing
into lubricious adolescence: my thinking
all muddled, and too young to worry,

"What will become of her?"