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The Night We Met

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The Night We Met

by Lee Zumpe

I puffed up my chest with a huff of air
as the door to her apartment opened

and I urged the corners of my to
stay propped up like christmas lights

drooping lazily in mid-january; I kept
my baggage tucked neatly in the trunk

and avoided asking her for a synopsis.
too early to get mired in yesterday.

we relaxed and shrugged off our neuroses
and spent the better part of the evening

painting portraits and opening windows.
years later, I wish I had recognized her,

wish I had paid more attention.
we so rarely pay enough attention.

I'm still holding my breath.

