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The Uses of Enchantment

Bruce McCandless III

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The Uses of Enchantment

by Bruce McCandless III

In December you finally get the divorce.
The world is gray, maybe fifty degrees,
not a single leaf to be found on the trees—
a stone tableau of your own bland remorse.
Through armored doors and an electronic screen
you make your way to Judge Covington's court:
today she'll preside over those of your sort.
You worry mostly that you'll cause a scene.
The judge asks questions. Who knows what they are.
Your last several answers are meaningless sounds.
The court reporter, embarrassed, looks down.
The good judge offers to call you a car.
There's really no way to soft-pedal the case
or to wish yourself anywhere else but this place.

