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Love Affair in a Small Town

by Carolyn Wright

That was the winter we clung to each other
in a bed that obeyed too well
the laws of gravity, in an apartment
big enough for someone who was always out.
It was Anywhere, USA, and always snowing,
like those Norman Rockwell cards that urged us
to put the Christ back in Christmas.
We X'd ourselves out of the landscape.
How else to silence the tales
boots tell, in a town that only had words

for denial? We were each other's
best-kept secret, as snow drowned out
the traffic, and neighbors trudged by,
scanning mailboxes for names to match
the lights in upstairs windows.
What did we have to hide?

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