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HUM 120H

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Original Oulipan Form – *The Braid*

Constraints:

- The piece may be either prose or poetry. If the piece is a poem, it does not have to rhyme.
- The same three words are repeated in every line. The three words should be chosen from a dictionary but do not have to be random.
- These three words should be intermixed with the rest of the piece in the following “braid” pattern, such that “A” is the first word, “B” is the second word, and “C” is the third word: ABC, BAC, BCA, CAB, CBA, ACB, ABC, etc.

artificial – bangs – crew

### Hair

He seems so artificial. With his bangs in his face, he thinks he’s part of the cool crew.

He bangs on the door, stepping inside with his artificial smile as someone from his crew calls.

She bangs her head against the wall, waiting for the stage crew to end the scene. The tears rolling down her face are not artificial.

She cries to her crew that this artificial love is too much to bear as the door bangs shut behind her.

They blast artificial noise but the crew’s speakers cannot muffle the bangs.

They shine the artificial lights on the lonely couple but the bangs don’t stop. The crew is worried.

We hear the bangs but we think they are artificial noises, created by the sound crew.

We, the audience, listen to the bangs, thinking the crew must be producing these artificial sounds.

Surely the sound crew is creating those artificial bangs – those terrifying noises – in their sound booth.

It is impossible for the crew to generate those bangs. They are anything but artificial.

It seems that the so-called cool crew endorses his artificial smiles as he bangs his fist on the table.

I know the sounds are not artificial, that they are not from crew. The bangs are all too real.

I understand that only artificial bangs belong to the sound crew.

Oulipan Form: Snowball

Overwhelmed

I

am

not

sure

which

phrase

conveys

laughter,

dejection;

sentiments

innumerable.

Consequently,

I forgo the task.

