

Going Dark

Anita Tanner

To escape from pursuers
I flee to the car,
gun the gas down the highway.

They're on my tail.

I flick the car light off,
go dark until the fear
of barrowpits and traffic
overtakes me.

I flick the lights again
to find my way,
passing through the darkness.

Red tail lights finally appear
for me to follow
and fear of this midnight eases
but not fast enough
to elude the blackness.

I must pass, veer in the darkness
and this time, stay dark,
what's ahead or peripheral
the lesser fear, what's behind
in the shadow's shadow
I must face, swallowing the pain,
going dark,
staying dark,
until the darkness
finally rescues me.