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Another Art

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Another Art

It isn't hard to master being lost.
Call it escape, count it among your joys;
you're not the one who has to bear the cost.

Your mother dragged you shopping for a sauce-
dish in a store with (yes, you looked) no toys:
You mastered, in those long aisles, being lost.

You're faster than the rest of the team rost-
er but you could not win the trust of boys:
you left, and it was they who bore the cost.

Your best friend used to call you from her mossed
college. But her conversation annoys
you. It is no disaster being lost.

The Bishop prayed for you, solemnly crossed
you, but you don't believe those Christian ploys:
you're sinful but you can avoid the cost.

You slip away before the time when frost
can lock your lover's confidence and voice;
it isn't hard to master being lost:
it's freedom. You can let them bear the cost.

Emily Compton, '97