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pity

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—Stephanie Cohn

pity

to laugh is to be alive!
 look to sunrise child,
 and disregard
 the stomping feet
 of elephants.
 if an engine is clunky,
 it's only because
 your mother loves you.

i guess
 the smallest way
 he could touch you
 might bring the rain away,
 but asking
 is never the way to go.

push-pops
 weren't always for everyone.
 in fact,
 it would serve us to remember
 that once upon a time
 a child was only given
 one push-pop per week.
 tears dropped differently then.
 that was before
 your brother had ideas,
 before the lions came
 and before the tempest.
 suncoats
 were yet to be invented.

and jenga
 was for trillionaires.
 (if a man
 says he loves you,
 do not trust him
 beyond midday.)
 afterward
 is only
 for those of us
 without dreams.

Josh Davis