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## Subconscious Kisses

George Payne  
*St. John Fisher University*

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### Cover Page Footnote

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# GEORGE CASSIDY PAYNE

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## SUBCONSCIOUS KISSES

### I

writing this now  
in my 92, rusted tomato red, geo prism  
grey shadows  
bounce  
like ensnared cockroaches  
swarming inside a thousand human lips  
bounce  
on vinyl elephant hide, druid knots, greek alphabet  
unthawed splinters in a crown of thorns,  
wishes dropped from a puddle sky  
& everyday is stormy monday  
& Perry Cuomo's on the radio  
singing "magic moments"  
kind of grey

### II

sunlight glowing like silver fire  
igniting the brass body of my pen  
the dashboard grey as gorilla palms  
wrigley wrappers, burdocks, helicopter seeds,  
sativa stems and rugby beads  
strands of hair white as albacore  
& held by a nostalgic maple sap

### III

last night I kissed you  
I began to nibble on your left ear  
I moved your sterling amber  
hooped anniversary earring  
around the surface of my sneaking tongue  
wet with embarrassment  
& cowering from the omniscient rule  
of the brain.  
yes, my whole body kissed yours  
my fingertips pulled your breast  
through mine.  
like a warm eclipse  
my thighs climbed over yours

I kissed you with dormant affection  
Then rolled over

**IV**

writing this now  
grey morning no longer sounds the same  
it no longer has the same crisp potential  
I think out loud  
& my words are loud  
In the softness of the car  
I feel as if I am bashing them  
against the walls  
like mice, their vacant skulls  
leave egg yolk stains  
grey and purple chicken wing veins

**V**

grey like shaman's peace  
a forest mother after childbirth  
clinging to her crying, steaming  
charcoal baby  
accepting God's due degree  
kind of grey

**VI**

my mother has taught  
that every action has a reaction  
a poem should too.  
I say to you—  
Grey—you have no spine  
you killed my mother's first love  
you gave no explanation  
you were not condemned to die  
for eye for an eye  
Is our own device  
God says what I provide  
Is proper  
& will suffice

**VII**

In afternoon's first terrified breath  
grey becomes just a color  
Unable to exist on its own