



SUSAN LANIER

ESCAPE

I was in college five states away
when Mother called a short conversation
the police she said picked up your brother
in a women's bathing suit at the public pool

five states away they picked up my brother
bouncing at the end of the diving board
arms extended he always had volume
did they cuff him? I forgot to ask

in a short conversation my mother said
she watched from the window my brother
alone in the backyard flip his hands
over and over five states away

confide in his palms the backs
of his hands a short conversation
was he wrapped in a straitjacket? I
fingered my button forgot to ask