

Ace Boggess

“Could Love Make You Sing Like That—Desperate, Terrible?”

—Karen CRAIGO, “Ars Poetica”

Has. Will. Stage lights
hurt my eyes, my throat
bludgeoned by thickness of smoke,
although I’m smoking, too.

I stood behind the mic & sang to her,
dedication in silence underneath noise.
I shrieked, & she, exhausted, smiled.

The song—I wrote it because
she spoke the words in her sleep.
I needed to share, to burn
those lines like brands
inside the ear canals of strangers.

Was it awful? Was. Will be.
I’ve never put away that song.
I often let it hunt, forage,
find sustenance, caterwauling
wolf-like in the dark.

Ace Boggess is author of the novel *A Song Without a Melody* (Hyperborea Publishing, 2016) and two books of poetry, most recently, *The Prisoners* (Brick Road Poetry Press, 2014). Forthcoming is a third poetry collection: *Ultra Deep Field* (Brick Road). His writing has appeared in *Harvard Review*, *Mid-American Review*, *RATTLE*, *River Styx*, *North Dakota Quarterly* and many other journals. He lives in Charleston, WVA.