JUSTIN HAMM

From the Poet

Friend, I have only stopped in to briefly describe for you

the bushbrowed old German, and the way he wrestled

that ancient squeezebox into a slow swerving polka—

music for the barefoot widow to dance away the grief

she'd long hidden behind eyes half-painted like two

deserted roadside attractions.

And maybe to add a line or two

about the shadow that seemed to rise from her skin like vapor,

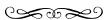
leaving behind some other more hopeful being entirely.

I might even say something of the after-embrace—strangers,

before and after, holding on hard to ward off the end of times.

But then—back to my own house. Someone I've hurt is waiting.

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ABOUT JUSTIN HAMM

Justin Hamm is the author of two chapbooks: *Illinois, My Apologies* (RockSaw Press 2011) and *The Everyday Parade/Alone with Turntable, Old Records* (Crisis Chronicles Press 2013). His work has appeared in *Nimrod*, *Cream City Review, Sugar House Review, Spoon River Poetry Review*, and *Big Muddy*. He is the founding editor of *the museum of americana* and can be visited online at noiseforitsownsake.blogspot.com.

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