



PRINTER'S DEVIL REVIEW

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Suzanne Frischkorn

When My Granddaughter Asks

About the woman in Cuba

I will tell her that each night

she released a cascade of black

from its trap of pins until it settled

at the small of her back, and that is why she birthed

eleven children; but will be unable

to explain her penchant for O's—

Ofelia, Odelma, Onieda,

or need for R's—

Rosselio, Renaldo, Rafael.

I will not say she abandoned my father

and his siblings without wisdom

because on her way out

she left Oneida's hair scattered

on the plank floor kitchen,

a five-finger lesson imprinted on my aunt's cheek.

That will teach you to feed a man without a job.