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We wandered together under a clear sky

Carl Alexandersson

there was no snow	on this day	none at all
except	in my mind	I pictured the walk down
to Sjöatorpssjön	the way it would look	in winter
ice skates in pappa's hands	hot chocolate	in a thermos
perhaps hockey sticks	a puck	a small goal
but really	is this memory my own	or what I have been told?
as I was saying	there was no snow	on this particular day
except	each snowflake	making its way
down	behind my eyes	which suddenly
drew to mind	the hoisting	carrying
twisting	lowering	of the bright green canoe
that pappa and I	used to take	on the lake
in summer	the one he used to take	on the lake
when he was young	how he too	would ice skate
on Sjöatorpssjön	in winter	and really
how much	of our memories	are ours alone?
how much of them	are simply	small joys
passed on?	again	there was no snow
on this day	but as pappa and I	made our way
down	to the lake	in my mind's eye
I saw two	giddy kids	sticking their tongues out
trying	to catch	snowflakes
before	they hit	the ground.

Carl Alexandersson is a queer poet based between Glasgow and London, hailing from Småland, Sweden. He holds a first class MA (Hons) in English Language and Literature from the University of Edinburgh. He was Highly Commended for the Edwin Morgan Poetry Award and a runner-up for the Grierson Verse Prize in 2022. His debut poetry pamphlet *Förgätmigej* // *Forget-me-not* was published by Stewed Rhubarb Press in 2023.