

DUJIE TAHAT

All-American Ghazal

all stories
tell the story

of the beginning
I'm tired of telling

my therapist
I tend

more than I admit
to trust stories

I am falling flailing
on the floor

like my father
I'd like this to end

will live with
ceasing fading away

I get up from
the middle of a story

because I can
my side of the fence

I keep clean
on a fifth story

fire escape
a curious child

(who could be
me in another story)

looks through
a telescope

at the beehives
on a rooftop

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across the alley
inside the tv

beams
Robert Horry

winning another
Larry O Trophy

time is many things
why not story

my kids do what
their mom's story

tells them to
and it's real

that I'm mad
as hell but that story

gets in the way of
being here: it

made me
feel inadequate it

reminds me
I was abandoned

Once upon a
starts a fable

Childhood is the oldest
grudge-story

I obsess over
the hero's narrative

I'm in love lately
with love novels

the way
every love story

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expands and repeats
the first story

we've always dated
others goes the story

the sex-has-been-great-
from-the-jump story

like animal hunger
desire is the only story

when talk
turns to news I lie

I'm good
I testify

I wake up the will
to live stories on stories

I see collapsed on
a bleeding child

children who look like
children are dying

a grieving mother
thousands dead

it isn't complex but
there are levels

the price of war
is a different story

passive voice
dusts the report

depending on who
thickens the plot

settles a land
calls it history

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on a street I have
a house an attic

three kids roses
rhododendron blooming

in all directions
the story

of children's blood
on the street the story

on the street
of children's blood

on children's streets
blood stories

the big shot is part
and parcel the story

my kid offers
fanfic lore

as placeholder
for opinion

so on the way
to school a story

during dinner
more stories

before bed
another story

what I'm doing
without a story

or country
leads me to believe

making is kind
of fiction

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kind of desire
not a poem

the way the end
begins a story

the way
the Dujie story