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Valparaiso and Neruda

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Valparaiso and Neruda

By Elizabeth Claverie

they lean on each other

the wooden slats, the ruffles of tin walls, fences to the cliff's edge

yards and yards of desperate stairs

faded and beaten, on a slant,

lean back against the hill to keep from

falling into the sea;

like old poets whose berets sit tilted and sideways,

passing a smoke noiselessly between them,

the words shared between them

shoring them against the buffeting wind.