

Rainie Oet

The Ride That Loops Infinitely / Tall Bed Above Water

I wasn't born in a girl's body. But there were certain tracks
 I made in RollerCoaster Tycoon
 that looped infinitely
 in a way the game can't account for.
 Like the ride I made that never let its passengers out.
 Because I wanted a captive audience
 to put on Julie's red sweater and
 dance in front of, bottomless.
 An impossibly steep hill, and only one car,
 which slid back down
 and was launched up, again and again,
 until even the girl Peeps stopped screaming and put their hands down.
 There had to only be one car because—I learned this the hard way—
 if there were two, they'd crash,
 one going up, one coming down—
 death and flying heads and hands on fire.
 It's the same with me. I could only be one car
 on my track—and I had to suspend all disbelief
 and dream about being called Julie,
 rubbing my nipples in my bedroom in the dark.
 Trying to make no sound at all, trying
 to even stop breathing.