

The Best Ones

By Malaika Kegode

The best ones always feel like a secret.
Dipped in warmth, maroon carpets cradling
familiar voices as the clink clink of pint glass
turns our stories into song,
the weight of the day evaporating
in the space between bodies.

Insecurities dissolve as we fall into each other,
screech chairs across floors,
make space on sofas to
stretch our nights, blanket
ourselves with company.

Even in unfamiliar towns
there's still sweetness in the air,
still open-mouthed laughs over card games,
still sarnies and scotch eggs. A world to welcome us.

I find myself here. Again and again.
Leaning into the place that gifts us peace in public.
Where the love can be a quid on a jukebox,
a well-written quiz, another round before closing.

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