

A Run-on Story about Running

by Ian Van der Wee

John Henry says “ha ha ha ha you’re so silly, what was your name again?” And I tell him for the third time this evening. Then he’s opening his mouth and moving his arms around like he’s talking but he’s not really talking and I wonder what the hell I’m doing here. So then I’m opening my mouth and moving my arms around and I’m gone out the door.

Pounding, pounding down the dark streets and now I’m back almost around the block and then oh shit and I double back and I almost run into someone, and then they’re opening their mouth and moving their arms around but I’m past them and I’m walking so fast I almost trip and then I just stop. I look to my left and I see a sign:

UNDERGROUND DISCO FOR LOVERS

CANCELLED DUE TO HEARTBREAK

NOT THE FIRST TIME

That’s right. And then I’m moving again and now I’m thinking about you up on stage being “very superstitious” and how that was the first time we were out of our minds. And there was the reasonable woman on the street screaming “NOT ON MY CAR!!!” and you apologizing and us laughing as we moved on down the line. Right on cue I stumble and I hear someone call out to me and I figure they must be looking for an excuse to move their arms around and then I hear them really talking. And I see that it’s you. And you tell me:

GOOD THING GOING

NOT GOOD ANYMORE

DUE TO A MISPRINT

And then you’re moving again and I stand there for a minute and it all makes sense and I realize I’ve never been here before and I have nowhere to go.

