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## The Purchase

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**Matthew Kelsey**

***The Purchase***

Late August, in the shade of a canvas tarp, near the blue brick of Bolton Dance Academy and the newly warped traffic circle spilling toward the Hudson, tomatoes stacked on gingham cloth poke into the light. A table over, punnets of beans crown some crates of corn fresh from their silks. All the fruits and vegetables shine in an estival haze, the catch of heat mugging the late cache. My new mother walks me through the market, less for the cobs, more for miniature leaves doused in maple, shows me how the light hits the confection smack dab in the stem, changes the sugar crystals' composition. She lets me eat one, maybe two, then tells me we must save something for later. She means to hold a sweet melt for a hard night, but what I keep is the thought of her outstretched hand, still open, a little sugar in each crease.