Where She Always Was
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Published by Utah State University Press

Lindsay, Frannie.
Where She Always Was.
Project MUSE. muse.jhu.edu/book/10428.

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SATURDAY MORNINGS, 1954

Her nipples never hardened
when I jumped on top of her in bed and yanked
her nightshirt up and tugged them
with my baby teeth. I’d wake her up
with play-shouts: “Milk! Milk!”
and she would have to let me straddle her
birthworn belly with my pointy knees
until I hurt her, made her wince
with my tongue coiled from all the angry words
I couldn’t know yet, words
I’d starve on, my tongue striking
at the unresponsive button of one breast
and then the other, blaming them
for every drop of blue-white food
her body might have made,
that might have made her
love me.