Where She Always Was

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August nights, dancers who barely knew how
—children like us—would clumsily ask
each other: the blinking tap
on the lake-cooled shoulder, the hurried curtsey,
because Pinky Johnson had finished twisting the pegs
of his cracked fiddle, paused the bow
over the gut strings, and
all the pavilion’s ramshackle silence
had drawn the low, black beams
of its breath.