

There's A Place I Know

by Nonnie Augustine

"Reminds me of my safari in Africa. Somebody forgot the corkscrew and for several days we had to live on nothing but food and water."- W.C. Fields

Around the next corner is a dark green door
a dark green door with a diamond-paned window
a diamond-paned window with opaque yellow glass
the yellow glass glows from dim dusty lights
those lights cast long shadows on the tables and bar
on the mahogany bar trays of olives and onions
olives and onions and wedges of fruit
wedges of fruit and beyond them a mirror
an old barroom mirror and shelves filled with bottles
shelves filled with bottles colored like gemstones
colored like gemstones or clear as pure water
clear as pure water, but vodka and gin
vodka and gin, tequila and whiskey
tequila, whiskey, and rum in the glasses
raised by the drinkers through the bright afternoon
through the bright afternoon their eyes glaze like glass
the opaque yellow glass in the diamond-paned window
the diamond-paned window in that dark green door
that dark green door that has opened for them,
is open for them, but closed for me.
I've sworn it, sweet Jesus, closed for me.

