unsettling

by Helen Yung

dreamt i was selling drinks in a park at a fair
men saying lewd things
    going to the supermarket to pick up lunch
strange things
    papaya over-ripe displayed on the half
with spoons sticking out -
” very ripe, tastes good “
    blue crabs cooked with lavender
i was sniffing a spoonful when the chef came out
    helped some people behind me
said he knew me
    ” you know carole & jim nugent, right ? “
    it didn't register at first
my god mother & god father
    i daydreamed about leading him behind his own counter
through the door, into the next room which was exposed
    people could see us pressed up against one another
an embrace. was just a hug
& then some
    i daydreamed it & then it was happening in the dream
    in mexico
a great swirling hole is swiftly carved
drilled into the earth
    great pieces of land moan
& fall, collapsing
slain
    the little people just make it out
standing on the edge of this hell
    next i was in a cabin of a boat
unreliable narrator
who was i ? invisible, implicit

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watching a woman in a red or purple dress
sitting on the window pane
    he inside the cabin packing or unpacking clothes
    back to the window
he thinks she's enjoying the sights
doesn't see her
    drop

    you can't sit on a pane of glass
when it isn't sideways any longer
    the man goes out with a helicopter
her dad piloting
    suspended by a bungee cord
he sweeps the sea
in search of her clinging to a life saver
    nothing.
    they return to the new base
in mexico
    jim & carole mock me
” i heard you wouldn't even give him a hug.”
    ” that's not true ! “
    they laugh. ” ah so the truth comes out… “
    no one is looking for the woman in the dress
    awake now
i too
regret
leaving her at sea
    tell me
if she lives
how
    how many days lost
can you live
out at sea ?