

Anxieties of Absence

by Johnny Dantonio

We were young.

We missed people more than places.

On beach trips with our families,
there were bumper cars, jet skis;
flash enjoyments,
beach-themed distractions.

Engulfed, though, by anxieties of absence:
missing out on things back home with our best friends,
our boyfriends, girlfriends,
these supposed angels to whom, for a time, we swore allegiance;
to whom we promised eternity.

I can't even remember their names anymore.

We're older now,
anxieties of absence ever-lingering,
and we don't miss people or places so much,
pining rather for the versions of ourselves we thought we'd be by
now.

