

## Red/Skater Boys by Emily Nabnian

red likes speed          jumps high          til then  
i'd never seen anybody          move like that  
so beautifully and so languidly          with his grace  
red rides and red defies          gravity          all at once  
tattoos lace          his left arm          and like his feet too  
they map out          some tupa music          just like  
him    yes          the way he waits n          the way he  
skates and          i stand there and listen to the whir  
the rich rush          of boys          in this city  
landing tricks          they cut through air  
so cold          for a night like this          full moon looming  
bove barely august  
*baby life's bouta change*          they say          n  
something's sticking to these feet  
which are my feet          which are their feet          glued  
to roughened boards          like hands          that have  
touched me before          and          in that way  
this too was like jazz          so blue n bound up  
in discipline          had me wondering  
if all that matters          bleeds from some tupa matter  
it looks and feels          it escapes like this  
boys who skate          like this          airborne n yet still  
born from          it's true          i never saw nobody  
suspended like this          softness remaining  
upended like this          both a prayer          and a risk  
sometimes the feeling like          *amaze me baby*  
it was a dance and so we danced

been waiting my whole life      to ask you to dance  
fell right back into myself      like the way i glimpsed  
dusk      on a california highway      one summer  
n i *been* in america you see      so words like  
    *highway*      you see      stood still  
whilst they moved on around me      they kept  
    throwin their weight round      around me  
but i loved their clothes      their sway and their style  
shirts flail baggy      tunes blue      n airpods hangin  
    they couldn't stop      those boys  
        beautiful skater boys  
from commanding n announcing vitality      red  
    he never looks at me      he moves so lithely  
so desperately      you see these boys  
        they always come back to me  
returning's a tupa gorgeous      very specific  
    to girls like me      loops round stone boulders  
n *amaze me baby*      circles like constellations  
    the skater boys are skating      gliding high  
in their great rotation      sometimes the feeling like  
        *amaze me baby*      by the time  
you ask the time      i'll tell you the time has changed  
    but red likes speed      jumps high  
red is shorter than the rest of the guys      til then  
        i'd never seen anybody move like that  
and me      me i'm moving to new york city  
    next week  
i swear i'd never seen anybody      move like that  
    red tells me      i might never still.

