

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.

