

Man, Woman, Other Man
Diana Rosen

He was storybook tall, dark, handsome. Loved jazz as I do. Took me to smoke-filled rooms where we listened to Joe, Arthur, Ella as we sat side by side; his manner formal, discreet, his clothes impeccable. He introduces me to his friends hosting a pool party where I ignore him to tread water with a stranger who describes his mundane job with Pacific Plate Glass, his open marriage of twenty years with a wife traveling the world searching for adventure, meaning, without him. A song I'd never heard before nor since ripples through the water, hums around our legs like cords of softest silk, accompanies his words inquisitive, interested, intimate spilling into the biting chlorine. Like a fisherman on a catch-less day, I remain haunted with the almost of it, dream even now of that anomalous presence in the deep end of the pool.

Diana Rosen's essays, flash fiction, and poetry appear in many online and print journals and anthologies. In 2020, an essay appeared in "Far Villages" from Black Lawrence Press; poems were published in *Poetic Diversity*, *Poetry Super Highway*, *Existere Journal of Art & Literature*, *Zingara Review*, *Poesis Journal*, *As It Ought to be Magazine*, and *The Reform Jewish Quarterly*, and her flash appeared in *Mad Swirl*, *the Jewish Literary Fiction*, and *Potato Soup Journal*, among others.