

PAUL THOMAS GRIFFIN
1979-2034

Paul

Paul Paul

Paul Paul Paul Paul

Paul Paul PaulPaulPaulPaul

Paul sat and watched the door of the diner.

Paul drummed his fingers on the table's polished surface.

Paul added creamer and stirred his coffee and watched it swirl and turn tan.

Paul crossed and uncrossed and recrossed his legs and wiggled his old penny loafers

to the sixteenth note frenzy of a recorded jazz trumpet.

Paul liked how the leather shoe tassel clicked as it shook,
but did not like how the sound never came at the same time,
always arriving just before
or just after.

Paul stirred and watched.
Paul tapped and listened.
Paul waited and thought.

Paul glanced at his watch and frowned

Paul could not believe how late Edward was.

Paul ____ed and ____ed and ____ed and decided he
was tired of doing things
in different combinations
to pass the time.

Paul would not be consoled by the pep and cheer of his teenage waitress.

Paul noted her smile
— how it remained on the girl's face even as she spoke quickly —
and her ponytail
— how it whipped as she turned from one customer to another —
and thought of her as a human blur.

Paul become walled in by the waitress's questions as he sat,
stirring coffee,
waiting for Edward.

"How are you doing today, sir?"

"Want some more coffee?"

"You ready to order?"

Paul

"Some weather we're having, huh?"

"Can I interest you in our daily special?"

"Would you like to start with any appetizers?"

"The soups we offer today are lobster bisque, New England clam chowder, and chicken noodle."

"Sir?"

Paul

"Are you feeling alright?"

"Ohhh, OK. That's good . . . I was worried there for a second. Heh. I'll go get you more coffee."

Paul marveled at the waitress's refusal to do one thing before or after another — instead doing everything in a single movement

Paul recalled where there is an electric field

Paul drank and tapped and drank and waited for three quarters of an hour but did not eat, and Edward did not come.

without beginning or end. Paul felt alienated by this aproned ball of kinetic energy but also felt attracted to its pull.

there is also a magnetic field.

Paul decided that he did not mind and remembered his lunch with Edward was not on that day but the next Wednesday.