

# April in Hollywood

by Wanda Coleman

cold brisk fingers in my hair  
the fresh sweet bite of crisp red delicious apples  
service stations with "sorry no gas" signs  
palm trees. the american flag full mast and shouting  
sun. the body shop in red black and white. wind  
the black man in blue who's got to get to cerritos  
on 55¢. latins stealing swigs of tequila from  
a torn brown paper bag in the back of a bus  
radios barking disco  
dogs mute in the face of poverty  
old white ladies with shopping bags as wrinkled  
as their necks, in tattered wigs, black high-fashion  
eyelashes and green mascara  
crisp starched sagebrush narcs crawling campuses  
for children dealing illegal drugs  
sweaty gay runners in tennis shoes jogging up sunset  
chinese japanese thai korean vietnamese and  
soul food kitchen smells  
the mindless roar of  
traffic on the boulevards at rush hour  
endless grey curbs of home

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