Miasma

He was raised in an argument
on the other side of the world.
She came to know him
through youthful folly
and too many fairy tales -
She pictured glowing tomorrows.
He undressed her
in front of windows.
He minified her with mirrors.
He accused her of hiding things,
like butter.
He hobbled her words.
He became a crowd
and trampled her
with many feet.

Sylvia Merrill Beaupré*

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