

Stu Ackerman

Somnambulists

Many women walk with the yellow,
wrinkled feet of many men
who wander the earth in search of women
who don't in any way resemble women walking.

Many men walk with the yellow,
tired feet of their fathers
who wandered blindly without ever
thinking about where their feet came from
(but they were sure they didn't belong on women).

Everyone's feet ache.
Everyone's spitting pomegranate pits¹.
No one's particularly happy.

¹ *Pomegranate Pits* — Persephone, daughter of Demeter (Greek goddess of corn), was abducted by Hades and forbidden to leave the Underworld permanently by Hades' housekeeper, Todd, because she was caught red-handed eating six pomegranate seeds in the foyer (apparently a crime in the Underworld). Later in life, she unloaded a gunny sack of corn on some guy named Triptolemus and sent him throughout the world by flying chariot to teach corn and its culture.