# In My Next Life

*Rich Youmans*

*For Belle*

I will know how to whistle. I wlll be able to true a 2 x 4, hammer a nail straight with three swings. When I tell a joke, I won't step on the punchline. In my next life, I will hit a grand slam, throw a touchdown, score a goal with three seconds left. I will solve the value of x in every equation. I will unravel the mysteries of our DNA, discover a star burning light years away, cure the common cold. Or, if I am really lucky, I will meet you again. I will recognize your smile, your laugh, the familiarity of your cheek touching mine. We will stare at the sky and take long walks. I will listen more, know less.

fuzzy dandelion  holding my breath a little longer

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Rich Youmans has been writing haibun for over 30 years and still enjoys exploring its possibilities. He currently serves as editor of *contemporary haibun online* and its related print anthology, *contemporary haibun,* and his books include *Shadow Lines* (Katsura Press, 1999), a collection of linked haibun with Margaret Chula), and *Head-On: Haibun Stories* (Red Bird Chapbooks, 2019)