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Ring of Fire

Saul Zachary

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Ring of Fire

She slapped his face
with a suddenness,
a passion the rest of their lives lacked.

The force of the moment
caught them by surprise,
traveled down to their hearts
like the quiver of a needle
recording movements of vast
tectonic plates far below,
but in their house
chandeliers did not swing,
mirrors hadn't shattered, the real
damage hidden from view.

He hoped his cheek wouldn't
redden and tried to forget
what happened while they
both sensed a ring of fire
had just opened beneath,
moving up ominously
in their direction.

-Saul Zachary
New York, NY