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Alberto's Corner (49th and 8th)

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ANNA HIMMELRICH

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He is not
a small man.
The aluminum
cart is cramped, so
when the morning is quiet
he sits on a milk crate, *El Diario*
in hand, a sliver of the two red socks
on his cap visible through plexi and pastry.
I cross eighth and he looks up, waves, rises (swelling
like a hammered thumb against the confines)
and in profile lets flow steaming coffee
into the cup, pouring in milk until
the suds match the cinnamon
hue his scarred face
would be
if it were
paint.