

# EMPTY SLIPPERS

TONI SCORSESE

before hands clapped zero  
she zipped down the steps  
tripped leaving behind  
a most fitting sole

in one sandaled foot  
she fled an unknown assailant  
the enemy pursued in shadow  
stalking the dial toll on toll

hobbled by chase and time  
she lumbered from one flight  
to countless other stairways  
in quest of the empty slipper

lost in climb and spirals  
she halted to retrospect  
the phantom – her own silhouette  
emboldened she set it ablaze

in light and cinders it struck  
regret is an aimless U-turn  
with no viable destination

shattering the other slipper  
earth beneath her skuddy feet  
she began to walk forward

3/12/2023  
[...]