

2015

A Summer Primer

Michael Shewmaker

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Recommended Citation

Shewmaker, Michael (2015) "A Summer Primer," *Birmingham Poetry Review*: Vol. 42, Article 83.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.library.uab.edu/bpr/vol42/iss2015/83>

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Michael Shewmaker

A Summer Primer

Before the Internet, we borrowed books
from libraries. You swore that we'd go blind.
We met beneath the bridge for furtive looks
at bodies not our own. We longed to find
a logic in those glossy pages. *Lock*
and key, you said. You mocked the illustrations
but watched me while I read. The mossy rock
still marks our cache, our buried educations.
Have you forgotten this?

Nevertheless,
returning home, I often think of when—
that afternoon—I asked you to undress
and the cold creek mirrored your silver skin,
the shivering shapes of our uncertainties,
your tangled hair the color of spring bees.