Bungee Jumping

One year ago I was riding in a metal cart with a dish strainer bottom,

Holes in it through which, 6 or 7 hundred feet below, I could see the Costa Rican Rainforest River Valley.

We were suspended between two mountains on three thick metal cables

And as we winched our way towards the middle of the gulch,

I thought about how rare it is for people to die bungee jumping.

I thought about how life is short and worth living

And how, Hell, I wanted to do this and how…

How… how far below us those cows were.

And my palms, feet, and forehead broke out in cold sweat

And I heard the ‘bah boom, bah boom’ beat of blood through my body

Then I had a moment of clarity where I realized I was very stupid

And that I was fucked in the head for *ever* thinking this was a good idea

And that the cows eating and pooping peacefully in the grass below

Were smarter than I would ever be

But just then, the cart swayed to a stop and I remembered

My $60 were unrefundable.

And besides, I knew that later I would regret quitting now

So too invested to turn back, I stood up.

The guides strapped a thin Velcro bungee around my ankles

And I thought about how many yoyo strings I had broken growing up

And I tried to talk but my tongue just flopped around like a beached whale

Because my mouth was too dry

Then they gave me a helmet. I looked down, imagined falling hundreds of feet,

And wondered what the hell a helmet would do but like religion, I put it on

Just in case.

I walked up to an opening in the edge of the cart,

Curled my toes around it, and bent my knees.

Behind me the guides say, “On one, ready?! 5,4,3,2…”

And I jumped

Just before One.

Because despite the fear flooding through my body I knew

That this is what I wanted

I plummeted through the sky as the river, trees, and cows below rushed towards me,

And my entire being was in that moment.

And it was euphoric.

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That is exactly what it felt like falling in love with you.

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But I am glad the metaphor doesn’t extend any farther

Because unlike the bungee, the bond between you and me broke

See, while falling, my heart leapt in my chest but it stayed in my body

Whereas you took it from me

And I fell out of your graces from a cloud so high that from it,

I could watch the earth turn and new that it was unimportant

As long as I was up there with you

And after falling out with you, I lay on the ground crushed

With the cows eating and pooping peacefully around me

And I had a moment of clarity where I realized,

That they were smarter than I would ever be.