

Police Stop, At 17

Nicholas Reiner



blue red lights
sun lowering
white officer
uniformed navy blue
gun drawn
pointed
my brown chest
under white shirt
matched a description
(was it white Nissan
or brown skin or both or
neither)
that evening I learned
I hadn't learned
pull over to the right
don't open door
until asked to—
(I was not scared in real time)
like a nascent rainstorm
how water falls from the sky
in spherical drops a moment after
not falling from the sky for hours
then keeps falling
is how the fear
came into my heart later
when I got home
told my parents
visualized again
the gun pointed at me
but not fired
lowered because
he opened the door

to the back seat
I answered no one else
is in the car