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The Ambassadors

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PAUL LAWSON

THE AMBASSADORS

When we heard it announced
that our country had been abolished
we looked around from the top of the embassy
loving the station
no way to tell the sky from the water
and
sickened
went inside and started packing

back of the funny tick-tick
we sensed lions dreaming our bones

in the infirmary was a man who'd
had his bowels removed
thankful that his stomach was left in

when the embarkation tickets were distributed
without names (to underline our identity)
and we realized we wouldn't have a home again
we knew we had to be something other than a nation
and went back to packing
and unpacking
discarding, reclaiming
questioning
hurting one another
waiting for a destination
listening to everyone cry
and occasionally thinking of the stomach man

someone mentioned Pocahontas
who left England for Virginia
in sixteen seventeen
and died off Gravesend