

## The Book

(Remembering The Tides Bookstore in Sausalito)

A short, bearded man  
Clothed in a cloak of deep starlight  
Walks into a bookstore  
And asks for a book  
Glancing at two women  
Chatting over coffee

The friends in turn are  
Staring at someone they think  
Might be a detective  
Peeking at  
A young girl with  
Beautiful hair, who happens to have  
A hand in her pocket

She's gaping at a man who could be  
Her long, lost father, while he  
Seizing his chance, lights a match  
Offering it to an old crone  
Dangling an unlit cigarette from her mouth

She freaks out, and starts stumbling unsteadily  
Towards the detective

Someone coughs

And a long, lost father  
Sees a young girl  
With beautiful hair  
Take a book out of her coat  
And put it back on the shelf  
She notices the detective  
And gasps

While the detective

(Who really isn't anyone)  
Turns to the two friends  
Dismayed  
And they, even more flustered  
Catch the eyes of  
The short, bearded man, who  
Having bought his book  
Seems to glow for a moment  
Then  
Disappears

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