## JASON B. CRAWFORD

## 3-Man Weave: Learning to Braid

and since we're talking about braiding,

> nothing bound the team tighter

> > than a 3-man weave

traveling the full length

of the court without traveling

and without ever dropping the ball

a scoop pass placed perfectly

into the pocket

of your teammate elbows as you fold in behind

the pill never really leaves him

the middle of the floor,

movement stitches in between

backdoor cut, 3 players a continuous

staying in sync

dishing again and again

and again until

it's your turn to drop the layup at the basket

and effortlessly someone grabs

the rebound before the rock

touches ground

and you weave back the same way

you came somehow

even though Eric is the fastest on the team and you took

a wing spot and so did

Eddie and you

know

you're the slowest

of this group

but keep up the pace

and Eric is childish but also only 12

and you're

only 13

and slow but a good shooter

but not fast enough to stay

with him on a fast break

like the one time he stutter

stepped and

you fell

and everyone laughed

at your broken ankles including

your father who joked

basketball is a standing sport

you know

if you miss a dime

or an underhand it means

the whole team might run

and this is the first team

you've been

a part of so

you try your hardest

to not make any mistakes on this drill

you are so perfect

the floor becomes 3 swift

channels of

water pushing

currents

the length of the hardwood

and your father has nothing

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to yell about this time

because for once

you didn't fuck up the drill

for once you didn't

fuck up.