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23 Lines

Real Writer

I'm an incarcerated writer
new enough to stutter at the title "writer"
and so I keep it in
quotes
because deep down
I fear
I'm not Real.

I submit hundreds of poems to the Real World.

Waters chummed
with poems ripped from
my bloody heart.

Nervously awaiting a response. A nibble. A sign.
Praying for something. Anything. A rejection letter.

Because even a rejection letter would mean I'm Real.

Hopeful
that someday,
somewhere,
you might be reading this poem.

Then we'll both think
maybe,
just maybe

I am a
Real Writer.