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1. Darakshan Raja, 2020  
2. Kiese Laymon, 2012

**Mejdulene B. Shomali**

*To Patrick Swayze, Thanks for  
Everything! Mejdulene Shomali*

Patrick Swayze nailed the lift  
baby out of the corner  
into the sky a rare bird  
something beautiful

my VCR rewind & replayed  
to see his smile  
watch her sink down  
against his chest his unbuttoned black shirt

Patrick wore that red dress  
drove queens in the desert  
locks blowing in the convertible breeze  
saved Stockard from a bad man

made a whole town believe in something  
in whiteness  
fuchsia sweetheart neckline  
lacy black gloves

even as a ghost Patrick moved  
penny up the door i wanted  
to see it again when  
he passed too young too gaunt

with what cancer took  
i remember him like this  
tight black jeans no spaghetti arms  
twisting hips from tips of feet

Patrick was never a punchline for me  
the bouncer of my road house heart  
my wild Johnny  
the first man i thought to love ♪