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John Zedolik

Goods and Services

As we pass, your glare penetrates
the lenses of your glasses to slash

at me for the flashing instant
as our eyes shift briefly to meet,

which conference yields to blind
sidewalks above which I hear strained sobs

rising from your throat then diminishing
in our own discrete distances that will

negate the knowledge of each other
and the possibility of succor I might

offer you even in return
for the sharpened blades you have

thrown me no matter how blunt
and ready to offer flowers

of solace that would bloom despite
the waste between us.

John Zedolik has published poems in such journals as *Abbey*, *The Bangalore Review*, *Commonweal*, *Poem*, *Third Wednesday*, *Transom*, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *FreeXpresSion* (Australia), *Orbis* (the United Kingdom), *Paperplates* (Canada), and *Poetry Salzburg Review* (Austria). He has also published three collections: *Salient Points and Sharp Angles*, *When the Spirit Moves Me*, and, in 2023, *Mother Mourning*.