

## Cash Register Sings The Blues

This *isn't* my dream-job. As a young sheet  
of steel and plastic, I dreamt of being melted

down into a dancer's pole in Vegas. I wanted  
a woman in a headdress glossy as gossamer

to wrap her lithe limbs around me. I wanted  
to be strewn in lights, smell her powdery perfume.

But I'm a squat box crouched behind the counter,  
noticed only if someone robs me. I'm touched all day,

but never caressed. Listen: somewhere gold tokens  
spew from slots. I want to drink neon martinis on black

leather sectional couches. Watch tipsy women with acid-  
washed jeans and teased hair dreamily press their faces

against slot machines, while people treat currency  
carelessly as spit in the wind.

I'm everywhere you look, ubiquitous and ignored.  
I'm the container of your dreams that tossed away my own.

I've kept my clean, sleek lines but you never say a thing.  
Feed me, feed me with the only love we know.

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