Delicate Maneuvers

by <u>Sarah Gordon</u> in the <u>August 2024</u> issue Published on July 23, 2024

On the internet old couples are dancing in hazardous moves, back and forth, around each other, to pop music, loud.
You don't really want to watch.

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You carefully pull away the fingers of the child who's grasped your leg in longing for something not yours to give

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You read that every year hundreds of millions of birds die from flying into glass, breaking into neighborhood homes.
You don't really want to know.

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Soon you will raise your small, trembling hand to say you have the answer or think you do

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Yet you avoid the eyes of the stranger walking toward you on the path as though you're blinded

by headlights

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That sideways breath on a cat's ear.

Your breath.

You don't really want such power.