

Stephen Dunn

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an excerpt of

*The Girl in the Neon Tank Top*

She sought the allure of a look  
that would separate her  
from the conventional, the all.  
In this she was like most girls  
except she was precocious  
and believed appearance  
is a kind of truth, and that a truth  
lasts only so long—is, in fact,  
always secretly expecting  
to be disrobed. She was,  
in other words, a philosopher  
of the charged sartorial moment . . .