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## Descending a Ten-percent Grade on a Bicycle at Midnight: Sundance, Utah

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# DESCENDING A TEN-PERCENT GRADE ON A BICYCLE AT MIDNIGHT: SUNDANCE, UTAH

*by Scott Elgin Calhoun*



it is better than any lipstick  
you have ever taken off the hot  
mouth of a woman, even better  
than the best wooden roller coasters

in the moonlight without a helmet  
I follow the yellow line  
my only guide  
the wind  
slicking my hair back  
like a mannequin  
dropped from a biplane

the engines of lovers  
whir inside parked and heated cars  
at the edge of the canyon road  
a generator hums on a motorhome somewhere  
in the peaks Robert Redford sleeps  
above him a glacier

but I am delicately potent  
and alone like a WWI pilot  
who has run out of gas  
and is gliding silently down  
into a field of poppies near Bapaume

without a match to light  
a cigarette or pen to write  
a letter