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Overreacting

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Overreacting by Samantha Bruns

I thought I was overreacting.

I had done the right thing: I told my boss.

She did nothing, but I'm only nineteen.

She must know better than me.

Four months of peeking around corners,
feeling the heat of his eyes prick my skin.

Four months of his sloppy lips trapping me
in storage rooms and walk-in freezers.

The only clear memory from that night
is the cold scraping of that brick wall on my back
and the way he paused, grinning,
to say that he wished he'd brought a jacket.

Four months of screenshots and a nurse's examination,
both collected and neatly filed as evidence.

Open and shut turned into back and forth. 5 weeks.

Job loss is apparently the harshest reparation.