

Dark and light places

by [Stella Nesanovich](#) in the [October 14, 2015](#) issue

I ran away from home once  
to the nearby Bell Theatre,  
where I often viewed musicals  
and comedies with my family.  
I wanted to escape from quarrels,  
to find in the dark a life  
as shimmering as the stars.

*The Sound and the Fury* with Yul Brynner  
and Joanne Woodward was playing  
that night. Before long, my father  
came to take me home. I was eleven,  
too young to flee my family.  
He rescued me, as he would later,  
while away in school, sending me  
cash folded into his letters.

My father resisted my mother  
as well: Thanksgiving he refused  
to eat her green peas and mushrooms,  
dubbed them *buckshot and devil umbrellas*—  
word play an antidote to bickering.

Years on, I taught Faulkner's novel,  
remembered the night my father  
took me home, his small notes  
on the underside of silver paper  
lining his cigarette packs.