
POETRY | SPRING 2015

Speed Dating By Type

By Doug Hester

A drop of blood blushes with
the squeeze of the pipette,
then freefalls. Below, the beaker
hums as the heme clots,
a meet-and-greet of surface
proteins bathing in bound antigen.
Clumps of potential dates bump elbows,
slide past each other seeking connections.
Some laboratory marketed the event,
a gala within a plastic panel,
speed-dating among common crosses.
Diego, Duffy, Kidd, and Kell
rush to screen each other's surfaces,
doubting the fullness of their serum.
Dressed in red, cells with half-full cocktails
fake interest and search for a reaction
at the cascade's end. Some fail.
But certain erythrocytes
form bonds enough to pursue,
at least for one warm liquid night.

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