

the HARLEQUIN

John Kinsella

Eight Black Swans

Eight black swans on Avon Town Pool
and two white swans of narrow gene pool
locked in history and persisting,
nesting in reeds while black-winged stilts
work and probe the silty shallows.

Coots with minuscule offspring
make community. Strangely,
eight black swans — *fine-boned*
strobe red beaks to make identity —

form a sub school in the pool,
home in so many old and familiar
ways where their ceremonies
are unremarked and let go.

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