there could be no better time than that hour in the morning I went to meet Irene at the entrance to the Circle in the Square and then we walked quickly off to our favorite coffee shop for our coffee and corn muffins toasted and served with butter and jam

I was eager to know how the rehearsal went because it was a new play by a new and unknown playwright and I was eager to hear her remarks

she explained that she was not in the first act but it was all about an actor who could not remember his lines because he actually could not remember his lines and because he knew he was only playing a part it mattered to him because he wanted to look good in the performance
and that was impossible
   because
he had only
   glanced at the written words
for only a few seconds
   before going on….

IRENE 2

I was supposed to
   meet up with Irene
   the next day
and there was a thaw
   in the ice and snow
all melting at the corner
and when
   I stepped out
   to cross over
the water
   sloshed into my boots
and
when I got to Irene’s
she was not there

no note
   no message on my cell

I had canceled on an audition
   because I was
   so eager
       to see her

IRENE 3
I did not see
    Irene
again
for about two years
and when I did
    it was by accident
and she had changed so much

she looked healthy

but had on a lot of makeup
    and blue hair

it was at a party
    where there was loud music
    and voices
she kept asking me
    how I was
    and what I’d been up to
and it wasn’t until
    after she had left

that I realized that it was Irene

I never saw her again
    after that