

TWINS¹

-- to Andra

Cyril Dabydeen

Two identical twins,
four-year-old girls--
one focussing on the man
with dark skin in the laundromat
--here in Edmonton

But her sister quickly tugs
at her shirtsleeves towards
their mother, saying
--“Don’t look at him!”

“Leave me alone,” comes
a reply from the one twin
looking long at the man
--as he walks on

What no anthropologist
or other social scientist
could explain about girls
being so very different
--biologically twinned

¹ The poem is based on a true incident. A multisensory story in terms of different responses to race. Despite being biological twins, they are not twinned in terms of having identical responses to the same chance meeting.