

After Watching *Thelma & Louise*

In the future, when a woman is crying like that, she isn't having any fun.
-Louise

Right before Louise shot Harlan
after she'd caught him trying

to force himself on Thelma
in the parking lot outside of the bar

where they'd been dancing
and drinking and having fun

on the first night of their road trip
to escape Thelma's bear of a husband,

Harlan told Louise, who stared
him down, pointing the gun

in his face: *Just calm down.*
We were just having a little fun.

And I saw myself young,
at a party, surrounded

by a herd of baseball players
and towers of empty beer cans—

how they kept telling me
to relax, to have a Smirnoff Ice,

to stop killing the fun
as they pushed themselves

against soft girl bodies in the dark
corners of a house party—

our hipless, small-breasted
frames glimmering in the summer

night. I wish I'd had a friend
like Louise, who knew what fun was.