

### **I Found A White Moth**

I found a white moth for my hair  
a bathroom sink found redemption in my presence today  
but you

how far will I go?  
too far from home  
so close to where you used to live

I don't know what happened to break you of me

I want to tell you about my father's cumberbines  
how no one says "golly" like they did in the 50s

I clean a different house every day  
at each one I think of you  
I want to poke into closets with you  
show you glass doorknobs and how we could walk through  
and make a room better

in a room full of pennies I'm hungry  
but I miss you like water

### **Spring Street**

during quietness I garden because I have to

winter's lavender and verbena corpses surgically removed  
from the ground today  
you surprise me

you water me

I spent the day in wait  
so instead cut sage until my fingers bled

if there's a way to paw the leaves away in front of me  
sometimes I think I don't want to do it another day

without you  
can this settle into a planter box like rain

I wake up covered in flies

### 3.5 Hours (Postlude)

1  
today you are winter fields  
4:18pm driving by I don't stop  
to take pictures

like the Beaver Moon five years later hanging  
high over birches  
    balanced  
    almost precarious  
the way you are with me

one by one you dismantle  
every way I could have asked why

I clean a small blue fly-spotted lamp  
you say it's the hours

2  
in November  
over Paradise Pond the geese come in droves  
and I watch their  
crazy descent

how many times have I said I can't  
look at this grief today?

3  
fields  
of this valley  
sun or no  
they accept winter

## Teratoma

1

your face a mess  
of tubes  
a scrappy beard  
suddenly you were a desert prophet  
the way your eyes grew  
or your face shrunk around them

in the white room an attendant in red set your bed up wrong  
I almost told the doctor about him  
and I caught a cold from the sheets they shook out

for twelve hours your parents sent me updates  
afterward I watched them remind you to clear your lungs

I drove you to Best Buy  
folded all your shirts  
later I would take back the blanket  
but I held your hand during the shots

2

I told my sister in the car how I thought I knew what love was  
this time  
like June  
or food coloring into water  
vastness ahead of me

my secret mass of winter  
outside and behind me  
a personal exodus since I met you

my face a mess  
until you couldn't love me anymore

that feeling walking upstairs and  
my grasp on life was like when an old cat's bones turn to bird bones

the way you slept  
unsettled

your lips on my ear  
were vines

**This Time, Two Years Ago**

We walked in a maze under  
just moonlight. Dim lanterns  
in an orchard. I didn't like  
how loud all the teenagers were.  
I wanted to go home. I did  
what you wanted.

My black coat wasn't enough.  
Even with your hands  
it wasn't enough.