

## Slow Dance

### I.

She is the first girl to truly want you.  
And you ask for a past  
with her in it. In this moment,

there is a cliff, an ocean, this girl, &  
the salt. You are drawn to two things  
in this world; salt water & dirt,

but right now the dirt is behind you  
with all that lavender & tickseed &  
all you have to stand on is a mountain  
of rubble. You weren't there, but

you remember. There are rusted stakes  
in the stone & the wind threatens  
to push your toes too close to the edge,

but you stay & you sway &  
the ocean wishes you well.

### II.

You can feel the height of the cliff in your head.  
It whirls & sinks & shrinks & grows & waves  
slam their bodies into rock wall swearing they'll come back.  
You watch the ocean try to crawl its way back to the sky  
between the cracks & suddenly you understand  
what all this gravity is for.

### III.

Try for a moment to look      behind the glowing girl in front of you. See  
                 orange light in the sky                      cloud-roses in full bloom.      They look  
the way the trees smell                      just before their buds open      all energy & hesitation

like sidewalk & river stones I know it sounds ridiculous , but trust me. Laughing  
gulls are pattering below & their footprints sing summer.

IV.

Standing here, in this small piece  
of a Massachusetts town  
there are too many houses  
in the water, but this girl  
reminds you of dewed grass,  
tiger tongue & sea foam.  
You see the curved edge  
of horizon & she looks  
like she tastes of almonds & cream.  
Hold her.

V.

By the time your song is over, snow will have started to flurry.  
The plows will have begun their routes. Imagine  
their angled cylinders circling as giant leaves trying to catch  
all the water in the world. Your feet are tired, but light &  
there are cars on the freeway.