

## A Little Distance

### To My Brothers

Once we were alive and young in a summer  
that was as new and naïve as us, thinking  
we walked where none had walked before, ruled  
in secret spaces between brush and brambles; in a  
kingdom keeping hours from dusk to dawn we ran  
and screamed and shouted until we had banished the  
threats that lurked at the periphery of our imaginations —  
specters that by day would be stark and boring reflections of our lives.  
The stars remember the secrets we told them, even if one day we  
do not. Forget the smell of wet grass between bare toes or  
the pride of bloodied hands full of berries or a sun that  
burned our skin as surely as our hearts burned with  
the importance of the innocent — undeserving  
but unashamed to see in the world what  
we wished and nothing more.

### For a friend

Count the times I hated you, the times I loved you, the times I did not  
know the difference between a storm that comes and one that passes  
as surely as our time together passed.  
Hold the imagine of it now in your hands —  
like amber it has crystalized, trapping every moment.  
Examine each but do not try to separate,  
for all tastes like whiskey and mint;  
all sounds like half remembered childhood things and  
all smells of that warm, ancient air we breathed together and confessed  
how it impressed us, moved us to share our secrets (but not the ones that mattered).

All is golden as the day I left you, warm as your tears on my yellow shirt.

Airplanes

Gimme someone to love, someone to drown  
with me. In all this fog and red poison, you swim to the surface  
bloated like a heart left too long in the rain.

Ouroboros

You lift me up, let me down — gently, I must speak to you.  
In return for your casual bruises, I must fear leaving scars.  
If I am to be a serpent, let me be one  
consumed with the business of swallowing its own tale  
again and again. I will chase you 'til you face me,  
    say you hate me;  
        say you love me.  
            Free me from these garden walls.