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My Body Becomes a Furious Globe

whenever I hear the door rear back, smacking his heels,
then the thump on tile by tile inching barefoot while blue worms
expand under my skin—materialized white fog (human moist)—
I whirl and whirl in the watercolor sheets, twisting & biting my lips,
squeezing slimy oysters shut, grinding my teeth: Rage
my ribs are growing out of my body: Rage
my ribs are branches hanging over the bed.

I hear him singing that little ditty—
a pathetic cover of his own love-less mess—
classic rock. Listen. Listen: “Another one bites the dust,”
another, another, my legs tense up,
I rise from my bed like I rise from my grave.
My ribs weigh a ton of hate.
My eyes leak red from all times he kept me awake!

Do you know the robber of sleep?
Have you found his gray hairs in the sink?
I’ll lynch his lips for all the times he stole sleep.
My mouth dreams the kill.
Words slice—cut the light.

What Dies

when my fingers, cream white and unreal,
clutch my father's long pointer finger
as he leads me into his walk-in closet—
five years old—turn off light—his breath
smelling like burnt toast & milk

when I'm chased through woods above
Ritter Park by a twenty-year-old man—
puppy dog blue eyes, black hair—
who likes what he sees: a 10-year-old girl
and decides to go after it

when I walk up the back stairwell to eighth-
grade homeroom—my ass grabbed
by jock-boys, geek-boys—
who I wouldn't give it up to yet—
bad-boys: I ain't bad when

when I slap my high-school boyfriend
for calling me a dumb bitch. He punches
the wall above my head. I slide
to the hardwood floor—blue paint
chips littering my hair

when I look at men in my twenties,
hoping they don't look back, and if they do,
hope they think I'm too ugly to look at,
so we walk by each other
indifferently, asexually—

boring glances in the grocery store check-out line,
boring glances in the dentist's office—
fluorescent lights milking my skin,
boring glances under each other

until the girl ghosts escape,
and I hold each deformed black pearl
in toned, loving arms,
slowly stringing
them back
together.