



## Your Metonym

Companionship  
    comes to me  
like water from hole in a boat  
quite unexpectedly  
    then slowly  
    until it fills my entire vessel  
I am forced to be  
    within its entirety  
Lying to please others  
What does it say about you  
And your inner thoughts  
if they are not nice enough  
    for other people  
When I have bit  
my tongue    then  
asked to voice what I think  
    I have found  
blood will come out  
    more  
    often than words  
It concerns me that I can  
look at a large storm  
    forming  
on my long walk home  
Think that I have suffered  
worse  
I normally do not  
    quiver  
Not with fear for the future  
but in fear of the    past  
Knowing I have suffered worse  
and can't go through any more of the  
same.

## Male Haze

There are other  
                  things  
I could be doing  
                  other than  
                  stripping  
I had swum well  
forever  
even as a very little  
girl  
in the sapphire  
                  haze  
                  of swimming pools  
I lost those skills  
                  breathing  
techniques  
                  some things from  
                  school I still use  
upper body strength  
on the pole  
                  equations  
                  and math  
formulas  
percentages for the  
                  house  
                  bouncer and  
                  bartender  
I could be  
                  swimming  
like when I was  
                  a little girl  
swimming beside her  
                  like a whale calf  
                  with its mother—  
                  safe  
                  from danger  
what makes me stay  
                  in a demanding job  
like this

her strength was slaughtered  
when her step-father  
took from her  
a girls' honor  
swimming against the current  
in a desperately rough sea  
I remain in danger  
but profiting  
from the male  
gaze