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SATIN ANVILS

COMPLETE SUMMARY

Tell me
everything
about yourself

in a short, one
word paragraph

like a cigarette
hovering vertically
over a marble

or the irony of tress
blooming
in graveyards

or waking up
in a mattress
factory...

Quick: the end is,
it's getting younger—

we'll moonlight
as sunbeams
like liberty statues.

TIN CAN TO SEASHELL

Gather up the hills and call to tell you
about it,
hoping to hear
the telephone in your voice tap
against your teeth.

Smear the ashes of your lips on my mouth, dusting
each breath
for someone else's fingerprints
while clouds lung the sky, a world
healing in heavens.

Hang up and fall asleep, dream my teeth are spider eggs—
wake yawning
webs like old people on benches
in courtyards
nodding off in the sun.

Think, we're all just bridges under crossing kisses,
our throats
the crumbling supports when
we finally remember the number,
and no one answers.

LEGS

(((...And a mirror
begins acting you out, more precise
then, as you refuse to look—
the accuracy depends on your failure
to see yourself changing...))

...And the thirsty horizon
swallows the last sips of sunlight
so when it's dark we don't have to see
the centipedes that tickle our thighs...))

COLLIDE-O-SCOPE

We're both too wrapped up in our own
empty boxes,
parcels with insufficient postage

passed between frozen mirrors
we study for holes
in the ice, first to skinny-dip in,
then to breathe through.

I turn torn open to you, my head still
bowed, clutching scalped tickets
to throw my reflections into your pin-hole

pupils like circus lions
through burning hoops when,
with a loud pop, their faces snag
on similar flames, tear out,

and when your eye drops
my ear rings.

WHERE BRUISES GATHER THEIR MAPS

A knock slept on my knuckles.

I woke it on your door.

That's where bruises gather their maps,
plan to colonize our bodies.

I lie quivering in the imprints
of satin anvils,
your breath the bandage under
which my hospital heals.

I guess I've never left
and of course you'll never visit,
so habit keeps me
here where, eventually, I hope
you'll arrive

over and moreover.