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speak easy symmetry

+ *from* chalk

i wake offshore and there
is albert schweitzer
curtained by strung olives, saturnine
in arms a wooden bowl a piece of chalk
two unearthed tablets
which he swallows whole

+ the escapist

she pulled taut from her sinuses
a cord of flight
or licorice depending on the angle
and harnessed each end to the prongs
of gemini skyscrapers

behind skin garages
her rapid pupils
were remaking her
a tightrope walker

on the marquee ledge
asylum orderlies found
a halved straitjacket
empty shoes
withered aluminum
in chalk, the words
never and always

+ synaesthetes anonymous

i never made it
to my synaesthetes anonymous
meeting
the radio was hurling purple
violent glue
across my windshield
shrouding the curve before the tree

bystanders said
when my body opened
amaranth seed pooled out as cancer
they said the sound would leave scars

slow greens beeped from machines
voices were metallic recluses
drawing petroglyphs behind tonsils
in a hospital bed
concussed
i blinked loud and twice
covered my ears until the doctor
removed his lab coat

+ how to undo your bite marks on the ocean

one way of doing this
befriend an ambulance
while it is laughing
then stay friends
the ambulance will think
you are withholding

another way of doing this
wait for weather
conducive to straight lines
wait for someone to bowl
the himalayas on their elbows
then while they are navel-gazing
drink champagne from a gun barrel
and jump the crest of ever
rest
change your mind halfway down
and unremember your parachute

another way of doing this
use a compass to find your own shadow
peel it from wood panel
like divorcee wallpaper
stand under a blank thought bubble
while your shadow salivates glass
tendrils down the nape of your neck
unzips you
slips inside

+ infomercial

the infomercial actors cry in tongues
douse each other with miracle
spring water
everybody has their own burlesque

with enough pounds of light
their skeletal coats would shed
their opacity
the veins spelling out toll-free numbers
the organs all branded pyramids
their whole anatomy in limbo
under their suburban alphabet

the actors would stop midsentence
miracle spring water in the act
of being flung
unlabeled and therefore
unremarkable, unholy

+ coriander

i saw mary magdalene on sunset boulevard
kerchiefed to cover the gems in her skull
pushing her youth in a shopping cart
she was growing coriander
in the dry shell of a ghost
to wreath her temples
and cure the fevering womb
she was cradling a drum
like a wet nurse
watching blood droplets cake
on pavement between her naked feet

the whorehouse lights flickered out
in the struggle several aces
fell from her sleeve

+ thai tea

he wears samsara
like a stake he is tied to
they masquerade as the last humans
les fils prodigues de la terre
under astral tar dried on canvas
on a marble with the audacity
yet to drip ink

the street is perforated
dressed as an invitation to fold
paper koi and paper vessels
her tongue behind his earlobe
in the closet
not a stripped light fixture
but fire harvested from jupiter
strung like lashes
on the pulsating eyelids of clouds

a domino kisses a wineglass
a gentler rape and homicide
a man colliding with a train
the train exploding
the man walking away
the bears and bulls hibernating in caves

there are things she will always keep
safe in the tangles of her ribcage
and she sucks them through a straw
between wisps of orange cotton
into her antlered chest
and they will speak easy symmetry
and she will keep them as a snowglobe
with sprouted saffron confetti
rolled in the wrist, not shaken