

HAIRDO  
**Rachel B. Glaser**

The Song Cave

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FIRST EDITION

for JT and the Monday poem gang

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## I AM AN ORCHID

which means I can die at any moment

I'm the most graceful thing in the grocery store

I have several beautiful heads

all the body parts

and people hunt me

I'm attached to a rod with a hair clip

love me and don't fear me

take me from the supermarket

make me the fanciest part of your lame living room

show everyone you're responsible

that you have a lover

a tall feminine plant

fuck me when no one's looking

if my manual tells you to

if we are both high on plant food

if your girlfriend's on her period

I know the Creator and the future

I am like the mean queen in a movie

but also the only beauty left in the world

## WHEN BOYS SEE MOVIES ALONE

when boys see movies alone, they become men  
by the closing credits  
which wash over them like meaningful rain

a girl becomes a woman  
when she edits her resume with a cruel attitude  
when she wounds the dragon  
during the solstice she does not believe in

a man becomes a woman during exciting, torturous months  
in the privacy of his cabin

I knew a boy who became a beast before he could become a man  
and a girl who became a puddle and then a horse  
and then a serious dog and then a baby with womanly ways  
and then a woman

WITH NO DESIRE TO CALL ANYONE I REACH FOR MY  
PHONE

somewhat moved in the temple  
during my public speaking class  
after the fireworks  
I reach for my phone

“truly interesting” I say to your story at lunch  
but I’m feeling for my phone’s smooth screen  
in each of my four pockets

I pick up a jacket and can tell from the weight  
in fabric it makes a boxy shape

it isn’t fancy  
it’s like a dumb boyfriend  
a short diary  
a live battery

it gives me a little batch of pleasure  
calls out like a pet in a hiding spot

I see my phone and see myself

it vibrates my hand at the lecture  
sits nicely at dinner

I put the phone on silent  
so no one will wake me  
then stare at the screen  
waiting for someone to call

when I put it to my face  
my face ends calls  
my face links calls  
the cover-up from my face rubs onto my screen  
like its wearing cover-up on its face  
like a silly lover  
a dirty mirror

I am closer with the phone than the people in the phone  
what disappointment when it slips underneath the driver's seat

I feel something for the raised name of my credit card  
the authority of keys  
but nothing like with the phone

each time I drop it it dimples like a rock

there is an electrical bond between us  
it must be coated in germs

a sad bolt of freedom when I power it down  
on the plane  
when they force me

## TWO DISCARDED LOVERS

two discarded lovers  
of dull manboy McOwerts  
live in the same room  
for a number of years

McOwerts is elsewhere  
picking his NCAA bracket

the discarded lovers are so familiar  
with each other's faces  
that if given god's magic editing pen  
could easily alter the flaws  
(Jennifer's small chin)  
(Ruby's seesaw tooth)

McOwerts late night chats the closed windows  
of his discarded lovers  
Love me, he tells his Lacie Harddrive  
Love is all, he tells his empty Dasani water  
Remember love? to his wheel of packing tape

I hated you so much that the hate diamonded over into love,  
Ruby tells Jennifer  
Jennifer is searching for an old Amtrak ticket stub  
that once meant the world to her

Look, McOwerts is chatting us even though we're invisible,  
Ruby says

McOwerts makes a long playlist in Grooveshark  
before his wife takes a break and stays broken  
Life is hell, he tells the empty cartridges of his printer  
My health is bad, he tells his digital photoframe  
Go Huskies, he says with little heart to his online bracket

It's as if I've been given too small a role in my own life,  
Ruby confides to Jennifer  
I want to go hiking, but only if someone dresses me and  
forces me to, she says unhelpfully

Jennifer reaches for a cheap plastic animal under the bed  
she exists on vitamins and leftovers

Remember Adrian? Ruby asks  
I remember nothing before McOwerts, Jennifer says  
but all Ruby hears is a sort of hiccupping