

## **blkgrl archive, object 9: catalogue** **[fragmentary]**

we know what becomes of us, blkgrls who learned to measure  
a fresh wound by its scent: *vermouth acetone chlorine clorox*  
*clomethiazole* crushed; blkgrls who closed another chapter  
of grief, who clamored on about the brock, the bramble,  
the neighbor with his rough boot pinned to his daughter's  
bruising throat, the bullet—another iteration of our undoing,

our forward-  
folded girlhood.

## **contortionist's caesura**

the morning after / my vibrator died / midway thru / *Versace*  
*on the Floor* got me / surprisingly & insatiably wet in the  
Lyft / got me feeling teenage & girlish in all the wrong  
places / this has always been the curse i've carried / its  
hideous rot / its gorgeous thunder / every tree on the way  
to New Haven looks the same / threadbare / too close  
together / just another part of the universe / submerged  
in snow / there is a proverb about tree roots / or maybe  
a metaphor / i forget / the time he tried to kiss me / after  
we chaperoned the prom / until this morning / in the Lyft  
/ i remember / how he mouthed himself / into noble / into  
nice-guy / god / it's exhausting / the music-less-ness / every  
unproud glare / body spinning around the balance beam /  
magic trick / dark & glittered eyelid / chromatic acrylic / :::  
/ here i am / today / escalating into the wet earth / until i see it /  
god / every time i touch myself / i feel like i am fucking a ghost

**blkgrl archive, object 33: universe**  
**[alternate]**

i made, of my bones, an earth for you: turned the oceans  
your favorite shade of light—that deepened, nearly bruised  
dusk. reflected in my palms, what i've made into water  
glows amethyst; when you drink from it, you are iridescent,  
luminous, lilting. i am metallic, meticulous in the way  
i pronounce your full name, watch you watch the world.  
i have quieted galaxies for this moment, hushed the moral pleading,  
called the caged animal in from the ark. *today, tomorrow, world with-*  
*out an end; to love you much and yet to love you more*, to want  
to hold your body to mine as midnight settles in the jasmine trees.  
and, by light of our stars, make water for tea gathered from the garden,  
read from Lorde in the living room, dance to Whitney in the hall;

lie with our legs laced together in our bedclothes and watch,  
quietly, knowingly, for our moon's sweeping, predictable fall.

## **“impulsive” means *by the body***

: means prom night getaway car : boy with broken  
hand : backhanding you in the parking lot : Blow  
Pops with sugar split : & a sweating can of  
Sunkist : ignition ignited : waxing gibbous : tulle  
gown caught between the car door : & the concrete :  
radio silent as static : threesome in the last Toyota  
Celica : & other circus tricks : hips split : til the  
sticky slicked : her entire palm : window fogged to  
vanishing screen : trapeze : backseat bitches : with  
the third blunt : glowering : midnight tightened at  
Heaven's throat : Heaven heaving out the moonroof

: :

*only teenage girls know*

*the threat of a morning after*

*in some summer*

*where the body adorns*

*itself a burning thing*

: :

o fifteen—roughened heart ravaged by grief / what monsters  
christened our names / fixed our fists into claw / into dagger /  
what phoenix / filled our wombs / watched us empty / watched us  
incoherent in the amber light / first sight of mourning / please please  
please / let me be / forever fifteen / & fuckable / & fuming with  
her—Heaven / us two / blkgrls embroidered with lilies / moonstones  
/ faux septum rings / blkgrls with cut gold teeth / braided hair /  
blkgrls beckoning: / come hell / come high water / come heavenly  
ember warping / hemp paper with heat / & yes / how yellow the  
day must've been / how green the pensive spring / here in the yard  
of our youth / the marigolds have come / and come fully now / & o, o  
/ the things we could grow / still / the things we could grow / if you  
would let her hands / if you would let her hands / touch me twice