

Inventory
Imogen G Morgan

scrapes of silver, stretched like laundry between bones -
they say everyone knows the river flows
downwards, but it's only the women.

the cat was small because she was an amputee.
you said you could smell the lightning before it struck but
the weatherman didn't account for rain.
the cat, airborne
grappled with my wrist, carving divots and trenches, muddied and oozing into the
wet sod.
she lived, but the lightning stole a part of both of us.

clot red, a lump of clay bulges from the finger end.
I will bury myself to the hilt
if you dig me out afterwards.

in the fairy-lit gloom, I go on
and on
about how the groynes on the beach at the end of my bed are horizontal,
not vertical.
you listen.
you hold my wrists in your hands.
beneath my skin, you feel the veins running horizontally,
dogs in the sand, tongues out.

I have a crescent moon on my bicep.
everyone thinks they know what this means.

Poetry

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*The University of Sheffield's
Creative Writing Journal*

Communion
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(one)

you must be quick.

(two)

to prevent it, steal a razor blade.

go to the petrol station, inside the neon-soaked innards you can find it, wetly starving in the middle.

blade small and wolfish.

this is very important.

(three)

take the blade and split it in half

Cain's body Cain's blood.

the fire in the swamp house over the road should flicker blue then.

if it doesn't, swallow the blade and use your ribboned guts to pray.

(four)

press the pads of your thumb flatly into the blade halves,

and press the blade into the soft of each eyeball.

howl to the dead if you want, anything to stop the hurt,

but do not stop until the whites run red and the jester usurps the king.

Charon may be fooled enough -

the metal is hungry so it should work.

(five)

Hey, do you remember that old church by the lake? [15:09]

Uh yeah? [15:11]

Oz and I wanna go check it out tomorrow right, and we spoke to Buster who did yesterday [15:12]

You're freaking me out dude [15: 15]

He said he heard thunder, right? Turns out it was this collection of voices just talking. [15:35]

(six)

drive home.

once home, the stinging will start.

hot red behind the eyes.

"don't touch your face," smiles your scream.

(seven)

Yo, he said they like started reciting the Lord's Prayer. He's gotta be shitting it. [15:36]

(eight)

the great beast is scheduled to arrive now.

the man with the axe is coming.

(nine)

You do know that the church burned down some years ago right? [15:41]

Samuel? [20:06]

Can you hear me? [22:56]

You idiot. [00:32]

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