

Inertia

A widowed fluorescent shudders bleach over malignant linoleum
in a kitchen
with not enough bench space.

A too steep spiral staircase ascends to the second floor
of a house
that will soon be demolished.

Water stains bloom across the ceiling like
memories eroding holes in whites and greys
above rooms coated autumnal
by afternoons filtered
through fading
bed sheet curtains.

None of us were on the lease.

We were the seventh season of that house
maybe the eighth
and the writers were getting sloppy.
Communal box wine. Communal chop bowl. Communal pube trimming scissors
bleeding outlines in the shower.

I was quick switching between states
the way heat applied to a solid
can make a liquid
can make a vapor.

Sweet like a kiss.
Nice like it wants something.

There were things I didn't know that I knew.

weeks / when I / could barely / speak / but made / a chorus /
with / the white goods / my body / atrophied / by thought /
(then)
legs like pistons everything about me in flight endless ideas stifled by their size my
mouth and eyes talking everyone into bed and a rage this fucking rage opaque like
burnt glass myself and my anger holding each other down

She yelled at me

Be better

Just be better

And I wanted to be better.

I did.

I really did.

But actually I didn't.

What I wanted was complete combustion

though I could hardly move

for the things

I had done.

I drove too fast on midnight arteries through red lights in a car that would soon be scrapped with a friend I would soon fall out with. They were trying to talk me down but my arguments were too compelling and too shrill. At The Gap I thought about my mother and the blood that would be on my hands and how I didn't want to die, not really, just wanted

immersion

in a darkness removed from dichotomy

without noise but not silence

just something outside of it

not awake and not asleep and not dreaming either

just something other

than any of this

I wanted to be suspended

static

in air moving so fast it becomes viscous

so swift I become a stillness

but a fall from that height

or any really

would have just been too short

for that.