

sequin

something luminous sheets off one woman

dark wraps another

to take you to the desert to live
hard right clean as long
as possible

merciful virgins
forgive themselves all who travel past
(the long vigil)
start over

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ten men lovers
no one left alive

shadows white
sculpture wet
your nightgown
blame me
for thinking you real

those rich endearments
(you were real)
artichoke heart
asparagus spear melting
buttery succulent avocado flesh

mobile knees
wide-eyed animal cries
your little dowry glee

curling around your
night body
turning
away to face the dark stories
some old things still left to be
said

no guarantee

who gets to say them

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the first time
dovetailed an open doorway
bathroom tiles pink gleam
swing your wire basket
full of toiletries tips of fingers
watch them nearly
fall out scented washes and rinses and oils

to tell you woke you wanted
to say

(apology)

glimpses
made you nervous

perfect drawing tropical fish
watercolor pencils dowsing aqua
turquoise lime yellow pink

nursed
emerge blinking

scarved lack of sleep submarine

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alkalinity valences
ion rotation
keep awake someone used to living
inside musical blossoms *pay*

attention (no) punished
punished
punish in turn pique

stamps tiny feet fled in frustration
a new boy dread her hurt

inward

inconsolable

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walk across the graveyard
resume the effort
an awkward halting task
next to your movements

some time or other try to be
try to cut you
out of this skin a year then

put you back in careful ink
draw

the winter we
hoped to be perfect

two halves fit close giving off
a nearly identical

quiet glow