

Kate Menzies

the blind rage of children running down the hill their red legs
kicking like an infestation chewing up the flesh of the streets
draining the world of its blue

the eye was flat but gelatinous like a coin that had been skinned
the outside was rubbery and calmed and salty dead on the wet
deck spray coming up from the moving water threatened by the
hemorrhage of cranberry red and blue

they hoarded around the dull minded river like wolves it was
1906 in the clay slab summer of Missouri their faces glistening like
rubies and they dunked themselves fiercely into the water so that
I stuck to their skin they were howling irises inside a newly grown
eyeball

I eat water like a parasite eats its host drying its wet heart with my
bony suckers and I land on her chest and drink down the clean of
her until all my orifices look like crystal rings

I cannot be killed I grow like a weed determined to poke earth slab
swallow your plans and close the throat watch my long bearded tail
behind me dropping feathers over the land like pips

There is nothing high enough in calories to keep me alive thought is
the only thing dense enough when the hands of an orgasm fill with
milk and the brain floats away when you are terrified I am feasting
like a florescent animal

I don't know to whom I belong it's been too long to know for sure
I'm very old so I am related to water and most fish I am also related
to the guillemot's egg we have the same precarious curve in our
personalities & it can be hard to pick up on our mood change that
curls like the pink of a nostril but it's there

I feel like I am being called by my full name like the raw wool of fog is giving me a bed to rest I am a lie only those who have risked something know what its like to really love something to understand what's at stake the scaring of mothers after they have their first child or someone who loses a limb when they dream they have their leg back

every day I am glad when dusk comes because the world leans into itself folding in all its creatures like paper each of them with glazed eyes of relief that another hunt is behind them