

Estranged City

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estranged city vi

bone rain falls through covered bridge ribcages
you follow the sickly floral sun
the city turning root cellar with shadow

how many bolts of cloth do you need to cover your body
how many signs how many kayaks how many dirty gemstones
how many mispronunciations

you see your future in the goldsmooth water
hurricane developed hazy
the pulped rhinestones of summer nectarines

after all this you must admit you feel temperamental
your home bursting with seedlings
newspaper shreds fluttering to the ground

you have antbites in winter
& splinters from all the bridges you've crossed & forgotten
a county sliced from the name of a killer

salted blame preserves your guilt, history clogs your arteries
striking you lightning bright & deadly

estranged city ix

all the houses here are for rent
& turbulent cedars want for nothing

cubed units of elbows smashing together
you curve your tongue around lamp posts
 sing wicked & slant
until the world licks you clean again

grey shutters on grey houses
grey landscapes
 the other side of a camera
this home is not for the living

elastic breath clings to a window pane
where a child tugs on dark curtains
& kisses the cloudshapes

your mother tucks her hands in the soil
grows roots from her fingertips & warns
thunderstorms away

the body is a continuation of another body
although you know better
you line your womb with silver & hope for rain

estranged city ii

you can't help but to consider what lives beneath the gridded surface
cool & opaque glass shards snipping pigeon wings
you thought you'd be anywhere but here

metal cords choke the doorway
where you once touched the floor with your fingertips
tile asphalt-rough & bitter hips bruised & restless

if you drew a map of the city & studied it by rusted lamplight
you'd find only the leftover blood of people who abandoned this place

your body is sleek with scales
but you knit a history from the hollowness in your thighs
covering gaps with stolen cloth variegated & brilliant