

**Sequin.**

by JSA Lowe

something luminous sheets off one woman

dark wraps another  
in an ache to

take you to the desert 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  
thinking you real

rich endearments  
(you were real)

artichoke heart  
asparagus spear melting  
avocado flesh

mobile knees  
wide-eyed animal cries  
your little dowry butter  
glee

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christ                  unface her

curling around      broken open next  
to night body

turn  
away                  face the dark                  stories

some old things still left to be  
said

no guarantee  
who gets to say them

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dovetail

open doorway  
bathroom tile                  gleam pink  
swing                  wire brim  
toiletries                  tipped fingers  
watch them nearly

fall out                  scented washes and rinses and oils

light falls                  a square less clear  
cold stalls                  dried shower less

come by your room some  
time

the light  
little basket                  only promise

you could never                  not promise

•

morning  
chemistry drowsy  
dim head overhead light buzz  
poppies nod like  
heavy with seed  
wings rustle folded  
sift down silvery paper  
brush fast that oblivious girl  
behind you  
trail crumbs an ice

this planet dislikes  
romantics  
men cannot fly and so shoot birds

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line so much pure siren color  
gauze sharpened  
gentled ragged to petals  
sea-pebbles hungering  
for clarity to swell  
you never  
would in the meantime  
an infirmary could  
wounds  
stand in for all fullness  
a body might hollow  
worn liquid out of shell

if beauty held an answer  
none came

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change can't ever  
the scent  
warm lemon  
taste  
to tell woke you wanted

(apology)

glimpses  
made nervous  
too perfect then limn tropical fish  
watercolor pencils dowse aqua  
turquoise lime

nursed  
emerge blinking  
scarved lack of sleep rambled in salt  
submarine

•

alkalinity ion rotation valences  
kept awake someone used to inside  
blossoms' music pay  
attention don't punished  
punish in turn punished  
stamps tiny feet fled frustration in  
a new boy dread her hurt

inward

inconsolable

•

just walk

across the graveyard

resume effort

an halting task

next your movements

some time or other

try to be

try to cut you

out of this skin

try a year then

put you back in careful ink

place

the winter we

hoped for

perfect

two halves fit close

give off

a nearly identical

quiet glow