

The First Time

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after he'd begged all night / and the sun slipped / into the window / he rolled / me over / I parted
my legs / to the inevitable / watched him wear nothing / but me / I remember looking down / at
our bodies / thinking / we looked like animals / he / this stranger / a dog / grunting in my ear /
me / more like the fish / shipwrecked / on land / when he finally noticed / I was shaking / he
stopped. / held me / told me / it didn't count / since neither one of us / finished / at the doctor's
that week / they swabbed me / for diseases / applauded me / for taking / the pill the next day / for
coming in / said I'd done all / the right things

I.

For weeks her fingers
learned. Edged
closer, musicians
tracing the keys.
We both led
and followed,
praised the slick
wet center, the song
we pulled from its strings.
I remember nothing
but the swell of her
skin singing, the sound
of my body saying
all the right things.