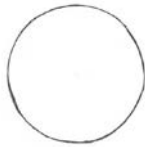


1. can you knock on the floor?



(if you hear echoes,
they are my mom's coins, exchanged for oreos
they are the wheels of my brother's red bike, getting wild with a stranger
they are the murmurs of my spine, plucked
by a writer's hand ten years ago.)

2. trees are still making sounds when no one's watching.
3. when the fire goes out, draw a moon in your lungs.
make it breathe make its breath bright



but quiet

so we won't disturb
the ghosts who live near to your heart.

4. oil some memory on your skin.
it's as dry as a winter apple.
5. what you are chewing
is my love, my pain
is the wind that melts in summer, the snow that rains from the trees
is a sea horse embroidered with thundering sea clouds
is a butterfly specimen pinned on your dream
chew it gently
it's the backbone of my life.

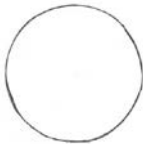
6. let's fold a paper airplane shall we? send it to time.
(time is
now roaming with
a piece of your heart with
the last bite of the banana chocolate chai cheesecake that
escaped your mouth seven years ago.

it is still throbbing.)

7. what you're licking
is my love. my pain
is the creamed spinach. the pumpkin soup
is the warmth of your hands the signatures on the 1950 cabin walls
is the argentinian bench that sits on the east side of town.

8. we miss them. the rainbow that used to net in your ears,
the night rain over my kidney , the four seasons in our limbs.

9. there will be moments of darkness.
when the moon goes dark, draw a line of your laughter.
make it round



and transparent

so the sun can walk through it
steadily.

10. apples are still red when no one is listening.

11. can you hold my hands?
so the fish of stars can swim through us
and reach the other side



of the river.