

## LYCANTHROPY

In my dreams I was a boy some past life sends his ghost when I am in a deep slumber  
sometimes, he is a wolf not one that howls at the moon, but one that sinks his teeth  
into the neck of a woman, sends her howling instead of himself, & he visits her when  
he is tired & sometimes he's alone & wanders too wild for a place to call home  
understands the brevity of a moment

*lost out*  
*beat up*  
*dancin'*  
  
*down there*

in a dream, I am at the altar  
donning lipstick, a French  
manicure, hair wound in  
curls, body, draped in fabric  
that knew my mother's vows

& the wolf stands at the altar  
absent of a smile a tear falls  
from his left eye

the falsehood of being his wife  
sends me howling & it is midnight

the moon feels hidden well  
& I can be found *'round there*

*dancin'* outside of my body

twilight comes & the wolf comes for me throws his head back pries my ribs open  
says I come from him

& when I ask him for a name  
he gives me my name

shows his teeth & it is not a threat

& the wolf howls

*if ya mama knew  
how you turned out  
you too wild  
you too wild*

in a dream I am in bed with a strange woman & the boy doesn't sleep tonight, the wolf wanders  
the yard, the falsehood of my body held in the arms of a woman who loves me in fragments

I tell her she found me *lost & beat up*  
& she claims to know I was *warm flesh*

*unseasoned* & she sleeps here without  
knowing who I've become