

21.

He's almost a virgin, a slip of friction between hip bones was all it was, he tells me. I feel the static of hair bristle between my wrist and eye sockets.

22.

We all pretend not to see the birthmark splotches, the track marks down my arms. We just offer some concealer, maybe a sweater.

23.

I take a Sharpie to my breasts, arms, legs. I start to draw a map of London but then just make koala faces.

24.

She wanted to make me scream, a screw-driver, a curling iron,
three jars of preserves and a lighter. "This is how we love now."
Electric grid my thighs.

25.

I put my nose against yours and counted to four.

26.

I like the parts of the bodies of boys that don't connect, the galaxies
of skin, their noses make bridges of star-burst cartilage. The way
they bite their lips like dry fruits.

27.

For the metro-sexual: vanilla and tobacco. For the rich and unsophisticated: faux cut grass. For the depressed: absinthe and musk.

28.

Sad sex on Fridays, a comet's discourse.

29.

We Christian girls put beeswax on our lips and holy water between our breasts and on our bellies. We tuck Jesus's body into our clothing. Discreet, we think.

30.

A slip of the razor, easy accident.

31.

I don't know what to wear, so I tie sage around my left ankle, twists of garlic in my hair. I want to be Italian and edible. I add rosemary, thyme. Frying oils.

32.

I brush my hair until it crackles onto the linoleum.

33.

She could feel the remains of him seeping out of her, radiation, she can feel her back beneath the mattress and it reminds her of Stonehenge. Reminds her of the tea she's left on her counter, steeping, the rim of black on the cup will be appearing around now.

34.

He sprays the cologne on his face. Diffusion.

35.

I wondered at the way her hair fell down in a clean black train, the tracks left on her face from yesterday's binder. I worry that she doesn't know my name or face, that she won't recognize, still dawning over her new hips and breasts. I say my name to the sound her arms make against the subway rails: Benji.