

ELEANOR REALLY

Maggie Hoppel

we used to huff sharpies / sludge antifreeze
down our ears / swallow sponge water /
clip our fingernails too short / lick
elevator buttons / glue our faces together
with peanut butter

we were building a house / big house
with doorways like loader jaws / we washed
our hair with vaseline and sink water / i liked
your staple gun / grape bubble gum in hot
weather / there was a mama cat under our porch
/ and you saved her

i recall you as a time traveler / nondescript
clothing / sleeping in swamps / chewing your finger
in absentia / back teeth like a herbivore / thresholds
laid and misdiagnosed / rough hands sprouting mouths
and talking / with my voice / giving quite the speech

i want to write you songs / like a scream /
scooping out your idiolect in loving spoonfuls /
calcified in the kitchenette / i bought all the skim
milk at the grocery / sorry / it waits like a body
in the fridge / for a reincarnation that is,
presently / unachievable by science