CASSANDRA RACHEL MYERS

Offering

They make me question the r
belong on this side of a prom
edge, trip-wire my wife jum
She is a stateless doe in the j
with excuses for entry and e
If only her car could slip thro
syringe entering the soft cou
interrogating the vein as a le
are pulled over at the norther
her name tossed towards a bl
officer’s face. There is nothin
is its birthright. It takes by la
cars rusting at its chin. Hoar
mouth. Entry, a map folded a
ticket is nothing but a trade o
spin a feast from gold at th
maker’s need for locks. Her
Take Aunt Audrey’s silk dah
khati. Take a slice of our wed
straight from the corners o
my left breast and its dandel
down the recipe. But do not t
Do not take my love placin
can I snap what is drawn in s
barb in their speech, say he
and I am pressing oxbow m
for a drawbridge to wink. I w
without dialing up her cheek
carry across is her laugh dan
away from her face, even fo
a door slamming a wailing a
own hands    reaching through a fence.
Medusa Calls the Rape Crisis Line

you wouldn’t believe the labyrinth of services it took to get me here. the average wait times are long enough for me to birth my rapist’s child. i’ve been shedding hairs for longer than this night kitchen i call a home. heaps of my leather in the shower drain from my bitter green pruning. i want it off me. every handprint blooms a new head. under all this soft there must be stone. i didn’t want this gift. i begged to be the granite. to be left alone and locked away but still they came with bolt cutters and blindfolds and wet mouths. how ugly do i have to be before i am the opposite of a prize? even curses are hunted when they have a pelvis. it must be my fault, i opened my mouth to scream and there was only a hiss in the attic during the dinner party. i have a henhouse full of tongues and none of them could say “stop, please, you’re hurting me”. i only unlatched limbs like a jaw eggswallowing an O. they became so hard at the sight of me they just keep coming back for more.