

A History of What Ifs (After Anhvu Buchanan)

Say I smell on you winds
 the towns your life abandoned
Say lay your knife down tonight
 we'll dine out instead
Say lavish banquets where girls stab men
 in the mouth with kisses
Say we meet at the river where one
 lifted her dress for you, crushed clouds
 and mint against her breasts for you
Say yes, but you were awash in indifference
 (her eyes sank)
Say you don't trust tarots but you trust
 my missing, toe and the hang—
 nail moon
Say we stay in Tuesday and baked stones
 resembling loaves of bread
Say I place them on the roadside
Say you're hungry but this town is full
 of singing people with broken teeth.
Say you came for the stars
 but stayed for the bees,
 verbena, sting of rain