

**i will hold us all up if i have to**

i kiss you and it's different because this time you can feel  
the panic on my lips, parted just enough that my  
tooth clicks against your cheek  
we turn blue and back again, a crescendo in a song without  
words, the moon rising and every flower damp with snow and the  
strength it takes to be whole

who in this world has the right to deem anything other than you or i as  
holy when i wake up, warm and loved

my palms are rough from hot water and holding on to the mango tree  
that will die in winter, sprung up from the compost bin, fragile  
i was fragile, my cheeks colored merlot and my smile  
downturned but beaming  
i feel the most holy when i am wrapped around you and who in this  
world will be able to take that away  
we turn blue and back again, i love your hues of pink,  
i love the wrinkles in the corners of your eyes,  
aloe to my sunburnt soul  
i cut away my hair and trace the empty skin between my right eyebrow,  
not for you  
we sit in the dark, and the moon lights you up, makes  
you beautiful  
i trace i love you on your arm, your back, your palms  
the gray sky is my constant, you know i will never go back to what i was  
you know my teeth are shaking and wet, my ankles cold with the new  
air  
i crawl in bed, warm

the night never starts feeling like i wish i was a boy because i have  
become one, already, have been one since i could love and hold and  
wiggle my toes