

## love languages

*Evan Allee*

a wild dog's devotion  
you domesticate,  
and do not reciprocate.

i.  
gifting a carcass;  
a hound's loudest love language  
shamed, diminutive

ii.  
whining for hours,  
your dead silence. it's deadly;  
the love you bury

iii.  
waiting by the door  
hoping for one scratch between  
these perked ears. please. touch.

iv.  
your fierce protector.  
they tell you, "call off your dog."  
you say, "sit. stay. bad."

v.  
desperate for your time  
pawing, whining, crying, bite—  
flinch. cower. shake. sleep.

neglect is watery  
devotion is thick  
i dredge through the mud of it.