

Poisoned Fruit
audrey RAYMOND

Michigan cherry dark with sweet juice
Trickled down your chin
Caught in the divot by cool flesh
I suckled and was satisfied
As my head lay dreamily upon your chest
I listened to the heart beat out of tune
I collected its rhythm in my ear
Tapped out its crooked dance across your stomach
You clutched my arm until it stung

But you let go
I reached out to your frigid arms
They clutched your ribs in resistance
I could not follow as you ran
The red-faced burden of our love's nest
Cried and wriggled in my arms
As once you had

Late
Long after little whimpers quiet
I am left with thoughts of you
I sob in my tiny kitchen
Rubbing my face into gritty linoleum
I can taste the vomit that wells in my mouth
I can feel myself dilute and spread
Like a puddle of blood
Dark red and unforgettable
The juice of an overripe cherry
That stained my lover's face
When once he was mine
