

## **Universe becomes**

Given body, body born  
squatting over a black hole, primordial gesture  
Taking a shit or giving birth to stars  
Aching for something to keep it full

Universe becomes  
An echo, ear ache: Are we created or just named?  
I'm named after the brother my mom didn't like  
the woman she loved and the woman my  
father kissed before deadbolting the door  
saying "Go back to bed."

Universe becomes  
Unexpected like my first bleed  
Sudden and sore like my first tit  
Can I call God Dad?  
Sister Mary Catherine says  
I can marry God but I can't kill my dead dad.

Universe becomes like "Fuck"  
all slick darkness, pregnant pause  
before there's manners, before text msg breakups  
My dad told me to have a handshake like a right hook  
then kissed me on the mouth in the house I grew up

There is no consent in the big bang theory  
Universe becomes all hot mess and stardust  
Expanding from nothing came a will to exist  
A desire to regret and transform  
Whitman urged everyone to go forth  
Then licked salt from the mouths of colts

Universe becomes  
A sakura tree grows in Washington, D.C.  
There is a time where we used to give gifts  
in the form of people, metal, and trees asking them  
To grow where they did not belong

My creator is blushing coral petals  
On the Metro I shout at tourists at L'Enfant  
Stand on the right, walk on the left  
The blossoms are beautiful

Universe becomes  
long before there was  
a male or female stall  
there was a cry for help in the dark  
Long before i before e  
Light came before sound  
In two minute contractions  
The universe is born in the  
middle of childbirth  
giving life to its siblings  
My hand breaks on  
my father's nose  
It hurts 2b born

Creator in the shape of a flower but never a rose  
When I die I will never become tulips  
Just acid rain  
Flowers prove we're best right before death  
There's something to aspire to and with good weather  
we'll be reincarnated next year

Universe becomes  
deaf, wet, screaming bearing down  
learning its name in the middle of Cesarean  
My doctor told me when I was 8 I didn't have a hymen  
Universe becomes  
Our lady of everlasting darkness,  
Dolores; a vision in void.

**It hurts 2b born**