

new york is a nightmare - alexis williams

it smells like piss
and hamburgers
and sucks the life out of you
better than any 9 to 5,
that makes you want to
smash your head into a wall,
could. new york makes
you face yourself. no
i won't sniff this yes i'll
smoke that and kiss her
and him and then her again
all in the same night. new
york will make you say yes
before you're ready because
if you say no, life will pass
you by like the godforsaken L
train when i can't get my
metro card to swipe right.
yes, i know the next one
won't come for thirty
minutes. it makes you an
adult too soon. i don't mind
spending an hour in the
home depot lighting
section looking for a
plunger. i do mind that
the man trying to buy me
a drink at the bar is not only
twice my age, but looks it.
i live in the fiery pits of hell
slowly sinking into the
atlantic ocean. at least if
i go down the nypd is
going down with me.
new york is a nightmare
but every night burns into
my memory like hot metal
to skin. when i want to complain
i ask myself, "when's the last time
you remembered a dream?"