Alyse Knorr

Alice Writes Down Everything She Needs to Remember About Jenny

to lose weight for a play one month ate only saltine crackers
kept a white bishop in the pocket of her jacket for luck
played Maria
played Juliet
played Christine
played chess
took off all her clothes and led me to a pool on a skyscraper
shoots skeet with a shotgun
smells like an orchestra tuning and the sea
told me a fact about icebergs I didn’t know
called my hands delicate yet also strong
cheated on every geography test in high school
grandmother was a florist
doesn’t eat salmon
left side of the bed
blue
Alice in the Second Act

an hour to awe her street black hair

light ribbons it: keys on a clarinet

crow-covered wheat field
    when I blink the birds shuffle
    and ascend

in her living room my shaking fingers

sweat dropped onto the prongs

a jolt a rock through to marrow

her mouth hovered shaping my name

tongue to her teeth for the L