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Spell

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SPELL

by Toti O'Brien

She casts moonstone in silver.
Sharp edges bare their teeth
as metal jaws bite rock.
She chains oval links
for a choker, charcoal black
she wears around her neck.

Crows draw dashes of dark
against skies
drizzling with regrets.
Jade irises squeeze
to make out V-shaped silhouettes.
She enumerates shadows.

A cat rubs
against silk-hosed calves
canopied by her ruffled skirt.
She extracts
from a veneered coffer
a miniature parapluie.

She hides within the shrine
of her car
as if inside a catacomb
basking in the smell of damp leather
and cold cigarette smoke.
An old radio croons shredded lullabies.

Streetlights quiver
through the afternoon fog.
She cracks a window open
hungrily inhales exhausts
breathes deep
with lungs dilated.