

# Why?, Gemini

It starts with you  
on a mattress in your parents' old room,  
clipping your toenails into the room  
like the room will fade  
and you will move  
onto other rooms  
and you will go  
to other places.  
Then the wedding,  
Then the woman passed out  
in the driver's seat  
at the order board at White Castle.  
We woke her up and she went  
'round to the pick up window  
like she knew exactly where she was.  
Then I wept  
with my face in your night shirt,  
trying hard as hell to say  
"until death separates us,"  
loosening the skin on your breastbone,  
I painted your nails  
and you sleep  
while I write all this down.

There was a moth caught in the soapdish  
laminated in lye  
Will you still remember me well  
If I don't get to two-o-o-five?  
my dead line Gemini

When we're on different sides of the globe  
I thought we'd keep our veins tangled  
like a pair of mic cables,  
And if there ain't enough slack to reach  
that we'd solder them together  
and across oceans they'd stretch.  
Our faces reflected in separate windshields  
and all our body hair pricked up  
an elephant eyelash.  
Should we be tempted by thief or saint  
it seems I leave and you stay  
to crawl the cage and curse.  
But don't regret the done dirt,  
there is no life plan set,  
you just swallow the cold  
and follow your breath until death.  
Now even if the will to sleep persists  
I can't 'cause a harsh cloth, it grazes my blisters.

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Today I fell asleep in a bath of hair.  
Hair that once sprouted from my own  
white wet chalk follicles.  
I swallow a coal  
and follow my breath  
and I did it with the grapefruit soap  
thinking of you.  
Bathed, shaved, and oiled,  
your legs are two skinny dolphins swimming

between the mattress and the layers of bedding  
turning in your drug dry sleep.  
When I ask you to kiss my pulse  
you offer to start the shower.  
I want a verb and you give me a noun.  
What do you dream up while I tongue you down?

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You know my build.  
You know my size.  
The degree to which my eyes  
are astigmatic.