

Riptide

Into the maelstrom
the ship's hull
 breaking against
 the weight
 of waves

Bodies flung overboard
 into the sea
 sinking slowly
 to join
 Poseidon
 and the sharks

What lurks
 beneath
 the depths
 swallowing
 every life in
 proximity?

The stars erupt
through the gale
 and scream
 against the
 weight of
 heaven—

Into the jungle
deep within
 the undergrowth

Turning back
 the leaves
stepping over roots

falling in the dirt
crawling,
 heavy with insects

and decay

Tear a hole
in this life

Plant a new
seed

Tear a hole
in me

Pull my bones
from this husk

Carry them away
Carry them to sleep

(dreamless)

Into the desert
your voice
echoes ghostly

She speaks
to me in
broken syllables

the cactus
and succulents
with long
spines

rip the flesh
your words
again

the vultures perching
wings outstretched
carrion on
their stony

mouths

The poison reptiles
crawling from
their deep holes
to bask and drink
the light
of mourning

Into the halls
of dead

there, I see you run
your hair
amid the wind
and smell
of doomsong

where the lightning
rips the trees
from face
to breast

their tattered
skin shatters

their flaming
branches
illuminate
the night

until the rain
comes

to drown
the light
in storm