

Like this for Years

One strung the beads and the other
undid the knot. Clickity went the flung

orbs and *hababa* went our chortle.
We licked our hands, primordial.

We loved. An age old, time-worn,
truly dumb Whitman way. *Distance avails not.*

Lines we drove into each other's hearts.
Love between boobs and pigeon ribs,

the collision of cushion and pavement,
we pressed and prodded, relented

when dawn came, filled job orders
splintered our path from the others,

scorned suburbs and stats
in banking, anything that sounded sure.

That was us. For afternoons, filling in
our freckles with Sharpies. Dot lands.

Boy-woman, girl man, man boy, girl enough,
we tweaked our nipples, made pinch pots

of our asses. Pole-bending, fruit-opening
sex. God-wandering faith. Afternoons

spread in the sun of our bedroom.
Sheets and towels. Oh blow man,

tongue-boy, roof-creeper. Nose in the clavicle,
Nose in the arse. Nose in the flowers. Nose in the stew.

We were two, a pair-some, sniffing like
snacking dogs, warbly line down the sidewalk,

each scent stringy as whiskey tits or goats.
Rubs, salves, flutter wind inside the gut,

fire enough for us, old stick and slot
we went and went, hotter than that

for years. Until the sky shook back
and rolled you up. No smell, no slackening

in the want, want—just the sun along
the bed-shore and me lying flat.

Trio, Down One

We flagged the moon, June-boy
to no song's avail. Trusty locker
where we put our things; then
fortune dropper,
we steered to the seas.

Come back. Retrieve the goods,
pull us from the rubble
boy-bug, lover-smush,
daddy-right. Tell me
that cemetery isn't real.

Promise me you are late
from work. A few notes and
the whole song goes *wish*—
we flutter cordless, shoeless,
through some ache-land

where we left our things
strewn here and there,
chairs and adding machines
in the desert, mud clumps drying.
Keys with dust and legs unhinged.

Goats ate; we starved.
Fate stopper, you're not
home yet. Ship's in port.
Hear that calcium
scrape along the rails of our stay?