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Amherst

FORTUNATA VIX / Only So Fortunate

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FORTVNATA VIX

Brinna Michael

effantur
destinamus – prodimus –
abire

effantur

non continati sumus
tamquam florive horaeve
figurave pluviae

sed verbam tentavi
concessi carmina collabi
ab labellis ad mentum
in tunica
indicia talia
non evanescunt
septemdecim cycli
litrum liquaminis
albique machinatio soniti

faciunt solummodo nequior

ONLY SO FORTUNATE

Brinna Michael

They say
we are meant – made –
to die.

They say

we are not permanent
like flowers or seasons or
the shape of rain.

But I've touched words
allowed songs to slip
from my lips to my chin
onto my shirt.
Stains like that
do not fade
seventeen cycles
a litre of lye
and a white noise machine

have only ever made it worse.