

Sally Rosen Kindred: Three Poems

First Night

Cultural Daily

under her story. Pain found me a wolf's
ghost body: gave me Never and fur I dreamed, I hid, I held, I
would not tell.

*

Coda: The Night Glass

When I was ten she set a glass of wine on the table.

My mother knew to praise, and the paints for night:

currant, rookwood, garnet.

Stirred in the drift. Shade of a hood.

Her thirst unsleeved in parts: a stem first, a mouth.

My mother's lips, though, were a blue envelope.

A glued wing, a flap, could keep her sleep's secrets.

Late at night the glass would crack.

Its whistle split shingles, let the sky inside.

She made it. Her fear named the parts.

Night sky: a stem. Night sky: a mouth.

She could drown a hyacinth.

She could thread a wolf through the moon.

When I was ten, a glass of wine.

Now I howl when it spills over.

I stain when it slips through.

She'll say *crimson*. No, *invention*. Call the red dress my dream.

I wake hard, a daughter. I break back into my skin.

*

Morning

The angel of the black bowl sets it on the table.
The girl sits down. She will not eat.

She wears a dress the color of her mother's hunger.
She does not believe in breakfast, dreams
the eggs' songs dead in their shells.

The room won't be her balloon, regretting the sky.
The clock turns its face away.
The chandelier above her kicks light into the past,
that time when she knew how to be born.
The bowl won't be her cradle.

She looks into the black bowl and sees a vicious wing.
She looks into the black bowl and sparrows are folding their wet brown papers.

She looks in and forgets there are
ways to eat and be a breath, a daughter.

The girl bows her head for a blessing.
Inside the black bowl it begins to snow.

[Link to buy Sally Rosen Kindred's book WHERE THE WOLF](#)

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