

1.

I'm leaning against you with every side of my body. Oh help me, phantom sis.  
Tonight I'm having to find the drum set in the dark.  
The glass bottles chime  
in the refrigerator vibrating. My naked feet:  
cold and linoleum-licked; my eyes  
still yet to be penciled in.  
Where have I come from  
to be so far?

2.

There is a baby's head at the center of my brain  
that can only a phantom sis can kiss.  
She touches the ears with the finger tips.  
She runs the blow drier over my limbs and places.  
It felt like a warm Canada. It was not crying.  
It was reverse swallowing  
big fruits.

3.

The phantom sis removed my hearing for a while  
and everything was just photographs.  
Then the birds started to come back,  
but only at night, when they weren't supposed to.  
After that, everything.  
More so than before.

4.

The phantom sis sleeps with everyone tonight  
and everyone feels alright.  
It's mean that the touchstains fade so fast.  
The black fly rage:  
how we want the outside of the window so badly,  
for the seasons to stroke us  
where we didn't expect them to  
and the modest gift of feeling just okay.

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5.

Phantom sis and I are going to church tomorrow.  
I asked her to make love to my grassy face—  
of course I was joking.  
Let's sign up for volunteer work together  
and fill our canteens with handshake.  
I haven't heard myself sing  
in so long: we're going to church tomorrow.

6.  
I got angry and killed sis's cat with a hammer.  
I stole a portable cassette player, a hammer and two cassette tapes  
out of her car and spread honey on the driver's stick.  
I smashed her favorite coffee mug.  
I seem to hate something, phantom sis.  
Probably not you.

7.  
Oh phantom sis, I like you more than mom and dad.  
I've advocated all of your haircuts.  
I know about all of your nightgowns.  
I would not have taken the fan out of your room.  
Why would you say that?

8.  
Rainy day spanking; the phantom sis and I played board games.  
We hugged after: she felt thin like a sapling  
with seaweed draped over it. She felt like a marriage  
always running away from me.