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Blood Orange

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WOMAN IN WATER

KAILA MUNSON

BLOOD ORANGE

CHRISTINE VINEY

He peels the blood orange with
slender fingers that caress the
sweet rind with rhythmic precision.

A dark, musky scent, like warm earth
when it meets the summer sun, desirous
life and drowsy heat, tangled.

Fragments of peel rest languidly about his feet
where I once shed my own trembling skin
to move inside his consciousness

in a smooth choreography of vowels,
like the firm, fertile shape of the blood orange.
Decadent flesh, it drips juice as he breaks

it open, as he once split into me, only
to find words spilling from every hollow,
restrained by gasping commas and the

bracketing parenthesis of fear, so contradictory,
like the blood orange cupped in his hands:
saccharine flesh and bitter, smoky surprise.