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He Gave Himself a Flower

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HE GAVE HIMSELF A FLOWER

KATHRYN HARLAN-GRAN

Ink in skin,
10,000 tiny puncture wounds paid
so that he could carry his dead gay uncle around
with him
like a memory in
flesh.

Sunflower boy,
small face following the sun,
seeking through the clouds,
choosing to grow up in tough soil

This line says, "He
loves me,"
and this curve says,
"He loves me not," and
an arc for the

traitorous ex-lovers who
scattered pieces of him across California like
flower petals.

This line says that he wants to put down roots.
This one says that he is
afraid.

Flower child with a gardener's hands,
remember that your talent will always lie
in tracking the course of
the sun.