

but you were not mine to keep

i kept you in the space
 above my head
in that country (more free)
 we lived out on the balcony
(took cups out in the day
 and blankets out at night)
basalt hills across the lake
 grew gold from drying grass
and we were washed
 away by stars
which skittered in the ocean sky
 (waves messy
with bioluminescent krill)
 we swallowed tiny creatures
by the millions (like whales)
 mouths open and always
pouring water through
 (always devouring the sea)
we scooped the stars
 into our mouths
our teeth gritted
 on constellations
our tongues washed
 with stories of queens
of ancient hunters
 and when you snuck your hand
onto my modern hip again
 the stars swam fast
and bright and blue inside
 blue inside my stomach