

SPLASH STUDY

Doc Edgerton's milk-splash photography lends us much of our understanding of liquid's way of getting out of the way. He spent his life in pursuit of the perfect splash.

These photos are important to me. They are also a test of my toughness. I fix my gaze and puzzle over each grainy king's crown.

The negative spaces

Around him

are the only ones I can see.

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Dr. Kate wears unnatural red hair and magenta lipstick. She wears therapist clothes. She tilts her head just so when I speak. When I get to the bad part, she cries.

I decide I can trust her.

Dr. Kate says together we will reteach me to speak,

Confirms she has heard the advice: during a solar eclipse, look next to the sun.

We don't have to think about what fell into the water. We can study my splashed things.

Since I'm not ready to tell her our story, Dr. Kate encourages me to write down what I'm feeling.

If I write *my beloved = perfect*, then later I switch the word to *hill-o-beans* or *Daedalian*. I have gotten hold of a thesaurus and become increasingly insufferable.

Her office is lined with all the appropriate psychology textbooks excepting a few wildcards. She admits that at one point she studied to be a writer.

Profusely, I thank her for giving up the dream. Only she can remember every detail about him, the rip in his mesh shorts, how he wobbled on crutches for our first kiss, how he kept a bowl of chickpeas under the front seat of his car.

When I show her photos of him she points out all his best features without my help.

GHOST HEART

My hands are little fists

I write lists and poems.

What measures will I take?:

Keep a stuffed rabbit under my pillow

Write *it's okay* not *how could you*

Whisper *sweetness sweetness*

How will I repair my heart?:

Chipped like wood, Lopped off, actually.

Dr. Kate helps with a different list:

Read my Resources

Get a pedicure

Patiently, patiently,

then the bloom

I think I can fix this:

Dr. Kate has more ideas:

Carry gently the grief balloon

Higher ground, dear,

buoyancy

Leave the city (when I am healthy again) (Dr. Kate says not yet)