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this is who i am

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Pavitra Attanayake

one day
all these desires my voice shan’t fathom
will leave this godless ground
and fly into the gaping spaces between my bloody ribs
searing their way past who I should want to be

i fall in love with troublemakers hiding hearts of gold
eyes the color of old pennies left on grimy back alleyways
manic grins drenched in lipstick made of crushed vanadinite
and paint-water minds gleaming faded colors under dancing strobe lights
who carry around the moissanite shards of my vagrant mind

cruel princess
you are the dream i cannot bring myself to let go

i remember the first time
the trembling of these thoughts burned within my paper veins
caressed me as i snuck into a prison world of righteous wrongs
more frightening than the sharp edges of heartbreak’s ruthless beauty
as a figment of your arms lingered
holding me