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## Her brothers told her to yell if there was a snake, but she didn't see him

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*Michelle Kuznicki*

Her brothers told her to yell if there was a snake,  
but she didn't see him

The neon church sign lights his face

as they grind in the back seat of her car  
hands ripping the band of her panties,  
she giggles at his strength and takes him in

(he tastes of saltwater taffy & gun powder)

He covers his face with her hands

she pulls her teeth inside her gums  
trying to leave no marks, he has a woman back home  
who washes his skin with wine and rye bread

(he smells of thunder & dandelion blood)

shhh shhh shhh

She asks herself if this is what Eve felt, as he places his hands  
over her mouth, bruising boysenberry skin. She asks why  
God would make someone so dangerously sweet.

(he felt like fish scales & tree bark)