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# A Portrait of My Sister as David Bowie

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**A PORTRAIT OF MY SISTER  
AS DAVID BOWIE**

*L.E. Wilson*

My sister divides like a cell  
I see her in Laura Ashley and roses  
long yellow hair tied back with red silk  
her white throat to hang jewels upon  
her slim fingers to sparkle with sapphires  
then she is slender and tight and hard  
in black leather jeans and stainless steel  
her beauty offending the eye, so armored  
my sister births herself from her own forehead  
dangerous with spear and fist and improper, precise words  
nothing escapes her curious brown eye  
you can see the corners of her red lips  
lift, and twitch, not quite a smile  
but she is laughing inside  
and it will become a painting or a song  
she might streak her hair with purple  
and her eyelids might simmer amber and peacock blue  
cartoon lightning laddering a white face  
if a puppy dies, she will cry  
if I bring her irises and sweet-briar, she will cry  
but she laughs when strangers eat cliches  
feeding herself on tea-gowns and spiked bracelets  
on green mascara and a tartan shawl from Edinburgh  
on red lips smiling and roses with bleeding thorns