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## Women in Water

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## WOMAN IN WATER

KAILA MUNSON

## BLOOD ORANGE

CHRISTINE VINEY

He peels the blood orange with  
slender fingers that caress the  
sweet rind with rhythmic precision.

A dark, musky scent, like warm earth  
when it meets the summer sun, desirous  
life and drowsy heat, tangled.

Fragments of peel rest languidly about his feet  
where I once shed my own trembling skin  
to move inside his consciousness

in a smooth choreography of vowels,  
like the firm, fertile shape of the blood orange.  
Decadent flesh, it drips juice as he breaks

it open, as he once split into me, only  
to find words spilling from every hollow,  
restrained by gasping commas and the

bracketing parenthesis of fear, so contradictory,  
like the blood orange cupped in his hands:  
saccharine flesh and bitter, smoky surprise.