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## I Should

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## I Should

Marines Alvarez

I hate the smell of your sweat  
Iron mixing with the product of your toil  
Water droplets glistening on your nose  
A tangible odor in the air  
I should get up and leave  
But I stay and taste it  
Let it dance on my tongue  
Let it choke me with its strength  
You don't seem to notice  
That is your specialty  
You excel in the art of oblivion  
Let your eyes glaze over in anger  
And don't ever see me suffocating on your air  
I should shake you out of your dream  
And dare put my hands on you?  
I'm too scared for too many reasons  
Starting with the poison I'm sure leaks through your pores  
And ending with the callused fingers that love my face  
Striking it into the shape you can tolerate  
A whimpering creature under your command  
I should get up and run away  
Forget the tears in my skin  
And the red silhouettes of fingers that cover my body  
Five fingers I see  
Just like any other man  
It must make you normal  
But I haven't figured out what that makes me  
I should scream until blood fills my lungs  
And let you watch my demise?  
Maybe not the best solution  
My prayer to any god has been an end  
But a secret one  
Not where you stand with a pounding fist  
And where your sweat fills the air I breathe  
With sharp inhales  
I don't know why but it hurts worse this time  
I should look down and see the damage

But I feel it  
A rash of burning pain that is spreading  
Like fire  
Not even the inanimate iciness of the floor is enough  
Not even the shivers of my tattered body  
Not even the drips from the leaking roof  
Not even the air lined with the smell of your sweat  
The only thing that will wrap me up in an embrace  
Is enough  
I should find a place where they can put out these fires  
I should  
Run farther away to see how far you'll chase me?  
No  
I'll see you here tomorrow  
Same time  
Same place  
Night Daddy