manuscripts

## **Deviant Key**

Brian Gross

I was the key
That fit, turned, and didn't click
that gets stuck, you wiggle out, and huff lowly at yourself

for trying that dangles in your pocket for years, denoted by its nicked edges from

failed forced attempts,

until you sacrifice a thumb-nail, trick me through the loop-de-loop, and set me aside

—not trash me—

set me aside in the whatever drawer incase you figure out one day

where I go, and your deadbolt misses my efforts.