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## [If you said *kitchen* and meant *harden* and then if you walked out back and forgot]

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**Abstract**

If you said *kitchen* and meant *harden* and then if you walked out back and forgot...

**Cover Page Footnote**

"[If you said *kitchen* and meant *harden* and then if you walked out back and forgot]" was originally published at [Booth](#).



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**[If you said *kitchen* and meant *harden* and then if  
you walked out back and forgot]**

by Kallie Falandays

If you said *kitchen* and meant *harden* and then if you walked out back and forgot  
to look at the sky                      what if all of the boys you kissed were just hungry?  
What if you fed them skin and so, when they said *tree*, you heard *hollow*.  
What if you were hungry and so you walked around with your hands out  
saying *children, bricks, light bulbs*:  
something to remember, to carry, to leave behind.  
And then, when all of the strangers on the bus turned to you at once  
and said things like *postage, letterbox, faucet*.  
If everyone knew what you meant, you wouldn't have to say  
*your lips are fluttering porcelain, or even my eyes burn like 10,000 fire escapes breaking*.  
If, when you turned to everyone and said *puree, timber, rustling*,  
they all looked to the west and nodded their heads.

Kallie is the author of *Dovetail Down the House* (forthcoming from Burnside Review). You can read her work in *PANK*, *Black Warrior Review*, *Puerto del Sol*, *Tupelo Quarterly*, and elsewhere. She runs *Tell Tell Poetry*.