Antidote
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Antidote

Given against devotion. Given against proclamations of love at Dover and the sting of the tide pool anemone. Given against enemies, digital sex, fog banks, proclamations of love over the phone. Given against fake sugar. Given against distinctions of house and home.

Given against your inclination to gather all my hair into your fist and pull hard.

Given against your sweat-stained pillow, the mice in the walls. Given against proclamations of love over whiskey that was just another hiding place.

Given against this gulf weather that keeps killing all my mint. Given against brevity, the inclination to run, your ability to pin me there and there and there, proclaiming your love, all your unbearable love, all that love you feel when you’re cleaning your gun right in front of me to counteract some proclamation of I’m leaving you or I left you a long time ago or Don’t.

Don’t kill the dog just because I loved him. Don’t chop down the fig tree because I loved the seeds between my teeth. Don’t say I didn’t warn you that I had never found
an antidote against the inclination to fall asleep
while you recited your favorite songs into

my mouth, given against your mouth, given
against owning something so dismissive as

a body given against another body given
up to another to be touched and retouched.