

Black Annie Hall

in a black wool hat
and black suspenders
in line to see *The Sorrow*
and *the Pity* again

with khaki slacks
and an afternoon free
black Annie has trouble
hailing a cab
after seeing her analyst

on her roof,
black Annie
drinking white wine
after tennis
& dewy

Annie, living alone
calls for help to kill
a black widow spider
in her bathroom

black Annie is bored
so she takes adult courses
& can't decide
between philosophy
or poetry

lucky today, black Annie
driving 80 on the West
Side Highway with the top
back, hair unmoved

black Annie's white
boyfriend asks her
not to smoke
that marijuana cigarette
in bed & out-
of-body

Carrion

Today, Havana is ugly
diesel fuel disappearing
the horizon, chicken bones
clogging gutter drains,
dogs fucking

I only meet men who want
things. Spanish tourists
looking for black sex, others
for asylum I am dark
enough that none of them talk
about my pussy
to my face, thinking
I'll understand them.
It's something, always
about my lips, half-
parted and heaving air

A pickup drives past
with a white pig flayed

open and hanging
in the truck bed
like a mast

Above me an old
woman's balcony crumbles
onto grass. I am beginning
to smell my own breath

On the street, a fritura cart
rolls by just missing
the body of a wounded bird
who's to say what's grace
and what's cruelty