

Julia Sargis

Documentary Poetry Assignment 4

Poems in response to the poetry
of Warsan Shire in Beyonce's
visual album "Lemonade"

29 October 2021

love dying

dysmorphia

you're in trouble

poison

untitled II

Julia Sargis
29 October 2021

love dying

insecurity arises from the dirt at your feet
walls of steel
or brick, rather
as you leave teasing cracks to claw
at the impenetrable skin
of your false animosity

why are you afraid of love?
you think it's not possible
for someone like you

eyes harden at the sight of an outstretched hand
adorned with the lace
of a timeless lover
drifting with the grace
of a velvet flower
butterflies in your stomach
drop dead to the pit, stoned
licking their wings with white hot acid
the poison courses through your veins
hitting as instantly as your first cool dose
of dreaming poppies
but with a fire that would burn petals up
in the blink of a bloodshot eye
and the hand,
it burns too
palm upturned in the beautiful hell that it asked for.

why do you deny yourself heaven?

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why do you consider yourself undeserving?

the flowers in the outstretched hand
fall to your feet, dead
you killed them
how does that make you feel?
does it stitch the wounds in your heart
to see their petals wounded?
or does it make the thick blood overflow
and clog your heroin veins
like the boiling grease
of a machine?
are you smiling
or are you choking?
if you're choking
do you like it?
are you loved
or are you dying?
if you're dying
do you love it?

why are you afraid of love?
you think it's not possible
for someone like you
but you are the love of my life.
you are the love of my life.
you are the love of my life.

dysmorphia

my body looks different today

i must have eaten too much last night.

did he bend your reflection?

things are a bit foggy today

i think i need to refill my prescription.

did he make you forget your own name?

this dress used to fit

i think i'm getting smaller.

did he convince you he was a god?

my joints are aching from carrying this body

i need to buy more advil.

did you get on your knees daily?

my room is mustier than yesterday

i need to let some air in.

do his eyes close like doors?

my eyes are drooping but i just woke up

i guess i should go back to sleep.

are you a slave to the back of his head?

people keep leaving and leaving and leaving

i must have eaten too much last night.

i think i need to refill

i think i'm getting smaller

people keep leaving and leaving and leaving

i need to let some air in.

i need to buy

i guess i should go back to sleep.

stay there please stay there please stay

i think i should go back to sleep.

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you're in trouble

hide your skin

it's too soft

the boys will touch you with dirty fingers

don't go out

past 10 pm

or you'll be in trouble.

stay away from the men

at the corner of camden

they'll hurt you and say it's your fault

don't smoke that

in my house

or you'll be in trouble.

don't say hi to mr. reid

you know what they've been saying about him

he'll bite you like a dog and leave you for dead

don't wear that skirt

give it to me

or you'll be in trouble.

don't go downtown

especially on a weekend

the streets will eat you and your girlfriends

you're wearing too much makeup, my baby's face!

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don't you remember being born?
are you thankful for the hips that cracked?

you slut, you asked for it
and guess what
you're in trouble

poison

while you're making your cake
stir a drop of my spit into your batter
then eat it and see if you can taste it
while you're pouring your vodka
stir a drop of my blood into your glass
then sip it and see if you can taste it
everything you make will have me in it
everything you create and breathe and drink
like a venomous snake awake for vengeance
your recipes will teem with me
redemption, it hisses
redemption, it screams
for the years of the alchemist's teachings
everything you drink will taste serpentine metallic
familiar, isn't it, the taste of me?
like a venomous snake awake for vengeance
your recipes will teem with me

untitled ii

child i brought you
here to this playground
so you can play
go, go play
child i brought you
here to this factory
so you can smile
go, go smile
child i brought you
here to this beach
so you can swim
go, go swim
she plays
she smiles
she swims
then she drowns

something is missing
she said to me softly
speaking of a piece of her game
i know, i said, i know
something was missing
i think that's why
she drowned