

AND THE SUN WILL SET:
a collection of poems

by Kendall Carty

IT SURGED ON

the sky breathed, barely.
swelled in and out.
like a stomach, bloated.

something was coming, surely.
everyone knew.
it throbbed, but gently.

they all took cover, frantically.
like ants rushing to the hole of their hill.
they watched, through their little windows.

it began to pulse, recklessly.
the floors matched its changing beat.
the people went up and down, and the floors billowed.

it raged on, decidedly.
like it had this all worked out.
there was a sound that no one was quite able to place, like a song they'd all known but forgotten.

a strange glow lit the world, dimly.
the pulse began to slow.
the nameless sound quieted, and they were left with only the air tapping softly on the windows.

soon they began to emerge, tentatively.
unsure if they could trust again.
their little feet touched down with determination, as if it was a new planet.

and it was new, essentially.
nothing looked the way it did.
with a mellow but fervent determination, the ants went to work rebuilding.

NOW I KNOW MY ABCs

A is for: artistic ability, aptitude assessment, above average, adam's apple, all alone, alien abduction, alcoholics anonymous, airtight alibi, attitude adjustment, acute awareness, awake & alert.

B is for: brown bear, braised beef, baked beans, boiled broccoli, bad breath, boy band, blonde bombshell, baby boomer, brotherly bond, bank balance, business bureau, blood blister, broken bones, buried below, bloated body, beaten & bruised.

C is for: camping cot, carrot cake, color coded, crab crawl, curtain call, candy cigarettes, catholic church, cinnamon challenge, cool clothes, cold cuts, credit card, car crash, crisis center, curbside customer, capitol coup, criminal charge, close contact, cancer cure, climate change, crying child, court case, crystal clear, calm & collected.

PROMISE I'LL BE BETTER.

I promise I won't be bad.

I promise I won't tell lies.

I promise I won't take cookies from the jar.

I promise I won't ever steal anything.

I promise I won't even steal people's breath.

I promise I won't eat all the skin off my fingers.

I promise I won't talk back.

I promise I won't piss on the flag.

I promise I won't Isn't the weather nice out today.

I promise I won't dewdrops on the grass.

I promise I won't look at you.

I promise I won't leave anything on my plate.

I promise I won't bruised knuckles.

I promise I won't walk into traffic.

I promise I won't staircase that leads nowhere.

I promise I won't say I hate god.

I promise I won't touch the art.

I promise I won't Why can't I.

I promise I won't tell anyone.

I promise I won't think about it.

I promise I won't be tempted.

I promise I won't be bad.

I promise I won't

I promise I won't.

THOSE COUPLES

“they look so bored with each other. it makes me sad. i never want to end up like one of those couples who [BEDSIDE TABLE, COOL MIST, VANILLA EXTRACT, PINBALL MACHINE]. if my man doesn't [WIDE OPEN FIELDS, SEX, ROLLERCOASTER, SEWING KIT] for me then i don't want him. i want [SOLAR ECLIPSE, RUNNING, METAL, BLACKBERRY TANG], not [FOOTBALL GAME, STYROFOAM, PERFUME, PEACHES AND CREAM].”

DUSK

Wiry hair and strong legs, among many other things they shared — long nights, game they caught, the home they lived in alongside one another underneath their setting sun. It took him a long time to realize that their sun was setting differently upon each of their backs — one still shining gold, the other starting to get quite dark. No one can keep up for long fumbling around in the dark, even with two hands there to guide you. One evening, just as all that gold in the sky started to go dark, six strong legs walked out to the field — all parallel, as they were meant to be, for the last time, a line of metal the only thing between them.