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Everything Will Be Given Back

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Everything Will Be Given Back

Darian Rose Dolan

You find her submerged in holy water,
roaming empty cathedrals,
silent in the confessional,
speaking in tongues,
a hymn kissed into the skin:
hallowed
and
anything but.

she is the warm glow of glass-stained windows
the sacramental wine on your lips
you'll find God in her breathing and
before anything else they will teach you how to love
the right way and
the first thing you will learn is that
you love
the wrong way and

she will become that heavy ache
from all the stones they cast so you
pour holy water down your throat and
baptize yourself in the bathroom sink
you wash her deep enough to drown and
then the exorcism comes like a drought
and
for so long you are a
desert.

here are the ways in which she comes
back to you:
you will learn how to speak her name and
suddenly the sky splits open and
she is the genesis flood
she is divine retribution
she is torrential rain
she is a monsoon and she is
Pouring out
of you,
and
you are ready to love her
the right way.