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## A Body to Serve, A Body to Suffer

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# A Body to Serve, A Body to Suffer

*Micah Beukelman*

I

have two bodies

a body to serve—  
my altarmy to worship  
a vessel of brilliant soul  
inches of empty canvas space

a body to suffer—  
my bodycross to bear  
a carcass of rolling white  
and red lightning strikes

it sings with unabashed fervor  
humming with glistening descant  
breathgasps holding tunes  
*sing louder, exalt it*  
the patina shines and glows  
under illuminating sunlight

we must speak in hushed voices  
and whispered words  
teethtrapped breath sounds  
*don't speak too loud*  
the fragile cover of skin  
will crack and split

I

have two bodies

a body to serve—

a body to suffer—