



Volume 25
Issue 1 *The Velvet Night*

Article 43

4-20-2017

Touch Me

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Recommended Citation

Gilmore, Jalyn (2017) "Touch Me," *The Promethean*: Vol. 25 : Iss. 1 , Article 43.
Available at: <http://commons.cu-portland.edu/promethean/vol25/iss1/43>

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Touch Me

Jalyn Gilmore

I want you to touch me
if only for a moment

I want you to reach through my skull and
caress my lukewarm flesh
Feel every bump, scar and the chiseled bones beneath—I want you
to peel back each layer
and dig your thumbnail into my collarbone
and carve out a greeting

Take your hand and clench my chattering teeth
reach into my mouth and pull out my tongue and see the truths, lies
and actual falsehoods tattooed there

Wade your fingers into my sockets
feel the sticky residue of my corneas
slip your fingers in deeper until your nails find my optic nerve
then you see through my eyes (your hands)
that I have been searching for you

Wrap your hands around my neck
find my nape (there is a little silver zipper there)
pull it down to my tailbone then,
my magician, with a flick of the wrist
yank me
inside out

See how my blood crawls in my veins back to my heart
how it slinks in my capillaries
down to my feet

Can you find my liver?

it's festering, peeling and gushing bile
the liver filters
it has to find the good in everything that we choose to swallow
that we don't remember swallowing,
that we shouldn't have swallowed
everything else that is crammed down our throats
It has to find the good. It doesn't have a choice

It is sagging

Once firm tissue stretched and worn
like a woman who spent so many days roasting herself under scorching
sun
in hope of honey caramel skin akin to beaten leather
It can't hold any more because this girl doesn't have any more

For every drop of evil I swallow my liver becomes
saturated
and most of it passes into my blood
through my beating heart
comes to a halting standstill
(I can't remember its rhythm)

Press your finger into the weary tissue
watch the depression it leaves
now press deeper until you tear it open

and let the sludge drain pool around my ankles

Now flick the wrist and turn me
outside in

Fold my hands in yours
I'm sorry they might come undone
they are made of Copper and Aluminum
Glass and Plastic
but they are mine and I will go as they do

Now without second glance,
take me where I'm meant to go...