

s a m s a x

essay on crying in public

i'm bent over / the sidewalk weeping / outside the public theatre / you stand
above me / horse built from a father's beer cans / you still have that other
man's mouth on you / i can taste it / with the back of my hands / it's my fault
/ always is / i say do what you will / + your will is done / so what i was born
drunk + mean with my teeth knocked out / so what my first noise was crying
+ i've been going-strong ever since / the other man has a name / i hate it /
he has a mouth + fixed-gear bike + hiv / + you sat on his couch waiting
for him / to say anything / that you're pretty / or nice / or have nice sneakers
/ then you leapt in his body + lived there a while / maybe brushed your teeth
or ate a spoiled piece of fruit / you came back to me / with your house keys
out / the ones i had cut for you / said you couldn't stop / thinking of me /
how he tasted too sweet / cut flowers in chemical powder / candy souring
in heat / how glad you are to live / here / where everything feels safe / basic
real-estate / my house + bed / a thin sheet of latex / my chest a coffin to store
your futures in / how bad does the news have to be before you get to shoot
the messenger / how can we bury the hatchet / when it always ends up in my back /
when you tell me / he emptied you / like an animal / hide / i'm fine / until
i'm inconsolable / in public + you're offering vacant comfort / *how bad he was
in his body / how much it hurt / you / how you used protection* / + i can't help but think
/ how terrible the name trojan is / in the story / the horse breaks / inside the city
+ war-crazed men spill out / thirsty / for revenge / so what people are staring /
so what we're on our way to the theatre / to see a play where everyone dies /
i don't know why i'm crying either / maybe i can't bare to look at you / covered
in mouths / maybe it's just the sidewalk pulling the salt out of my head / maybe
i can't see you now without also seeing you dead

