A Spell for Revenge (Second Prize, Peter Sears Prize in Poetry)

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Keywords
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A Spell for Revenge

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# Second prize, Peter Sears Prize in Poetry.

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toss a pinch of salt over your left shoulder.
diffuse heady smoke of burning white sage.

(for the boy who touched me in biology)

offer a hushed, urgent prayer to the goddess.
press and preserve three small asters for patience.

(for the junior who catcalled me in a freshman hallway)

streak dollar store eyeliner down flushed cheeks, running in watery rivulets.
press your fingertips to the ink and smear. prepare for battle.

(for the drunk who crooned vulgarity while waiting behind me at a safeway, breath reeking of piss-poor beer)

rub blood on your chin and grow your nails into claws.
wrap your body in linens, protect against the frigid, biting wind.

(for the man who groped me in a disney world crowd, four steps behind my dad)

squeeze blades of grass into yellow pulp, feel the earth on your tongue.
no weapons, only wit and spite.

(for the predators who handed me shame, claimed it was my burden to bear:
you are a speck in this yawning void
of a universe)

*may our fear now grip you.*