Thank you to good folks at *ucity review*, *A Few Lines Magazine*, *Unlikely 2.0*, and *Isbaan Literary Review*, in which parts of this book appear.
Grounds
Materialize the Moirae:

*In Preparation for Olivia Cole*
The Fates, or Moirae, were the goddesses who controlled the destiny of everyone from the time they were born to the time they died. They were: **Clotho**, the spinner, who spun the thread of a person's life, **Lachesis**, the apportioner, who decided how much time was to be allowed each person, and **Atropos**, the inevitable, who cut the thread when you were supposed to die... The Moirae were supposed to appear three nights after a child's birth to determine the course of its life.
It extends
a measure of illumination

a wick
exalted in transition

inducing conversation engorged with misconception

Eyes fixate
then follow

An exchange of pleasantries

the harbinger

abridged
to an innocuous advent

With less than urgency
utterings dissolve into noise
saturating orifices
under the pretense of importance

Inspired by disregard
the wick withers
light embarks on a journey unhurried
to a nameless terminus

and this begins

the reasoning of your infamy

I am a bystander
a forced role

unfamiliar nonnegotiable
and it has to do with this picture

when

a noisy blink from the corner
arrests the motion of the goings on
Kept in a catalog
you stare without a blink
aging before our eyes
We seek reinforcements
to replace these heirlooms
having outgrown
being accustomed to

those resting adjacent

The
columns
are
telling
as
they
catalog

what was
is
shall become

Emptiness will be occupied

with syllables

of
multiple meaning
the vehicles of discourse

portrayed in a dim light

allowing for ambiguity
The route to you was empty, less than scenic, thought to possibly be barren.
Arrivals in droves were disappointed, turned away, sworn to secrecy.
Though not deterred from entrance by their owlish aspect,
but rather urged to a marathon of a joust with perseverance.
Clotho – the spinner
PRENATAL
You first appear to me speechless
amid a halogen glow

A transportation of exclusivity includes the givers
takers

An ark has been constructed in the vein of repetition
condemned
due to accumulating vibrations

but
you hold an empty Evenflo
still

compressed between lateral pocket loops

still
since Mary got dysentery at Fort Laramie

We have torn down the walls of this place
to make room for interrupting torrents

in the shape of unfulfilled promises as

inch by mile
wanderings misplace extended hands

offering
sustaining
sustenance

Patches of hair
reveal

patches of skin
you subconsciously announce to attention

The most remote of exteriors
align
conceal
reveal
the places they will soon become

territorial indifference troubles
by
condoning losing

I packed a persimmon

but it spoiled
the surprise in store
for when you retrace
trails seldom traveled
in permanent ink

And so she just floats away

Touched
is the result
of the journey
yet
we resurrect a wall

which just over

the pole of a pool-cleaning contraption
is visible

Vines crawl from left to right
and
roots reach
in search of sanctuary
from the shadows

The receipt of the scene
is with fervor
and
this optical infiltration
would be reciprocated
if not for the lack of the tapetum lucidum

So it stays
finds a home
wears out its welcome

That pole reaches up from the sky
vines crawl from right to left

And you speak to me
in unattainable lyrics
muffled
due to my lactose intolerance

To you clear
until clarity

so you continue
What will be cast away
now retains its power

a lure of convenient blindness

you articulate
so I can articulate

This probation of your dialect
is given over
in isolation

with the permanence of ache

and
you begin to awe yourself

with narcissism

You sit centered

surrounded by

nothings

Presenting itself in intervals

is your voice

Utterance of the void

renews your substance

while

you repress the scene
within the frame of an enigma
Lachesis – the apportioner
PERINATAL
The Polaroid taken
captures what is now
twice removed
The vertical white lines
dispatch her eyes
to seek out the light between
a terrible love
and a place
seldom seen

These two pillars of vines
barnacles
ivory
close what was once sacred
only to become public domain

She remembers her home
standing in the front doorway
hoping the approaching headlights
were those of her father’s
Ford Festiva
that had standard headlights
but
she knew
she always knew

She was once woke staring
at the framing of the door
to him sweating

his face
sweating
his hands
sweating
the glass holding his brown liquor
sweating
the salty fumes permeating a being
once of pleasantness

That now sits
quietly quiet on the edges of
a world succumb to those who employ the tripod versus the free hand

The map has unfolded and a once highlighted place has lost its presence

She will run amok through the gauntlet and come out dry

—hands offering towels will be shunned with a cold shoulder—

she will be too experienced to pick up bad habits

The misshapenness of the attempts of the avidly avid wounds these places by accident that resists the healing purposely

That old saying goes but is never quite gone

The wind passing through failed to secure a grip but the table totters from that stilt the folded subscription card has slipped from under

Loudly these edges form new edges and shavings gather scatteredly in the corner of the page reminding her to be confidently confident in her early choices When the first real presence is the awareness

of absence

The false bottoms
conceal
the hunger she represses
to be quenched yet again

the dichotomy is presented

though it is easily refuted

An inside pivot
allows for reflective revelation

while
she
concedes
to peer pressure with pleasure

and in perfect isolation
stimulation surrounds grievance

The
descent
lengthens

almost wantonly
in spite of the firmament

now hued in gray
in an attempt to
keep the lawn dry
in a desert’s vein
as she sweats
drinks
soaks

The Fiero parked here
tains the eye
to divert from the leaking oil

This oasis may catch fire
redden with its reach
how long will it stay ablaze?

There’s more sky
in the sky
than usual

the one cloud
lends to this vision

though she tiptoes
closer to midnight

and

a reverberation
leads the way
to the division of sheep

There are lessons to be learned
around all corners
but these lizards scatter around the garden
like they own the place
damaging those fragile
branches not prepared for their weight
live and learn.

Landscapers work loudly on hedges
the muffs they wear only come in bright colors

The blaring electric keyboard
tangles with the
one and two cylinder engines

and that hummingbird hovers in mute over
the pink hued hibiscus.

If she could close this space she would
with a mere reach
for an embrace
from a loving father
who uses this vehicle for pride

Sleeping under a tent
will provide minimal security

not like a rock would

The bite of a mosquito
a sting of a bee are
administered happily
their appetite heightens the senses
making it okay for solitude

the life we live in dreams.

On cold days these lizards go into hiding

The chime of the neighbor dog’s collar keeps
an undeciphered rhythm
the sun uselessly stands still

and she sits surrounded by vacancy
telling her it’s okay to move

Doors shrink to smaller versions of themselves
when days get cold
All huddled and moving slowly
people dismiss people
making chances to meet
frequently missed.
She will look up upon contact
since
once having that dream
when someone else was there.
They sat together
staring
though not at one another
before they stood and walked away

She often wonders
what those lizards are doing
when she doesn’t see them

Are they stuck behind shrunken doors
anxiously waiting for expansion?

Does an assassin know how to add?
Multiply?

the silence holds still

mocking the silverfish

parked above the television
She may have dreamt it

but

she may have experienced

this world before
the vision was immediately

forgotten

but

she collects it again
out of the corner
of her eye
the swiftness with which this night dissolves
subtracts the days at an alarming rate

and

I have to wake without getting any sleep
Atropos – the inevitable
POSTNATAL
Life moves with an artifacts artifice

but now
this pulley system may be too
    complex to work
and
the extension cords in the closet
    seek an outlet to hold on to
    for dear life

Who under these soft
    white
    fluorescent
    lights
    can recollect
    or
    manipulate
a trebuchet
The weight may be too light
    too heavy
    to close the spaces
    we will soon pass through

Under the floorboards
are more floorboards
    cosmetically conveying this cold place

To what shall we set the degrees?
You are a keyhole
    but I long ago misplaced my keys

The postal annex – closed on Sundays –

    has the only working Silca Matrix S

and a locksmith
    will only feed me for today

There’s no glass to break

    or

    screen to remove

    but the tragedy is

    these stitches are sewn in upside-down
    roots are due to go underground
    there’s no “E” in that word
    knitting is a different beast altogether
    sprouts are the newness
    that we bank on for the amazing
    that we boast about to our neighbors

and those fine drops of water

split twigs in two

    then

split twigs in two

    then

split twigs in two
Before the cycle
comes a realization

and I exercise the demons
in the folds of my neck

muttering factoids
under a breath
invisible
in freezing temperatures

In an ageless time
the adhesive loosens its grip

when the pillows horizontal stripes
run vertical in repetition

There’s a rupture in my post-existence
which functions with spontaneity

dormant
quakes
erupts

obliteration obliterates obligation
The toll has been taken
sending shockwaves
for again

I become invisible to myself

yet you have edued from a shadow at night
to satiating my field of view

You move over the top of receding buildings
as you grow

engulfing gloomy visions
in your iridescent glow

There is now an open window
allowing you passage unattenuated

You are more than a thing
   more than a pale thing
you are the world seen from my window

cows buildings mountains clouds
   obstruct my view of the horizon

   interruptions
   obstacles in its path

attempting to negotiate their
   interface
   of source and destination

This combative

for my feelings

is coupled with

a retreating

to each’s opposite

You are inserted here

between the lines

of this loose leaf
a less than ample

space for you to roam

there’s a spontaneous expansion

as you shape-to-fit

in an act of accordance

a precession

to your arms
tied in a knot

and you standing in the way of a B-boy

bent in dismay

The pregnant pause

precedes

you asking if I can roll my tongue

But which do you mean

the one with or without sound?

I can do both

my mother can do both

I leave you with a blemish
to remind you to find me
under the ficus
where the cat sleeps

the blowfish suckles

I lost my way
in a wordy wind
walking parallel
to lines of longitude

you couldn’t follow

nonetheless you request an audience
Sphered:

What is the only way to accurately represent the true shape of the earth?
Located in the northeastern portion of the San Francisco Bay Area in Solano County. The city is nearly halfway between Sacramento and San Francisco on I-80. The city was founded in 1852 by William McDaniel, on a part of the 1843 Mexican land grant Rancho Los Putos purchased from Manuel Cabeza Vaca. The city was a Pony Express stop and was home to many large produce companies and local farms which flourished due to the Vaca Valley's rich soil, including The Nut Tree. At one time an Onion Festival was held annually. This stopped in 2000 due to the onion processing plant being closed down. Two state prisons are located here: California State Prison, Solano and California Medical Facility. The latter prison houses inmates undergoing medical treatments.
The path to this place

is coarse
resistant
and you travel
because you can’t get back to your feet

After a loss of traction

you have grabbed for a meaning

The word memory
may be too heavy

the opposite of forget
misplacement
loss

We often lose the paths we travel

then retrace our steps

Migration begins with a destination
to and from
a new frontier
a detached entity

Porcupine Creek maybe

where the search will begin
end
There’s a barge leaving at 2pm that you might want to be on. The next one comes next month.

When you consider the small place you occupy, there must be more than the one pay streak.

The infinite immensity here hides what you’ve come for – the man across the river says, look there.

This place knows nothing of you, and the fixed-wing you passengered on the second leg is now inoperable.
You take fright in the amazement of here, now – just as a grizzly wanders into your line of sight.

The faux presentation of an emptiness of life you realize with the urgency of urgency.
Is there a single word for this place?

A rationale sits
   listless
on a park bench
   unassuming
   waiting
   for your return

The populations of
   rodents
   birds
   break from this grandiose arena
having grown out of being patient

Rationally speaking
   you too
   sit there

The bends start to set in
   upon your rapid ascension
you find shade

is dearer than none

as if when sun hit
    I didn’t provide shelter

There’s an alternative to this consumer imperative
    which navigates its way diligently
saying a potential for failure

In a solitary stance

you move

providing fodder
for the expanse of the generic

You emerge in a historical context
a unique subject of repetition

irreducible
and down to the spinal
of a said place

Over the horizontal you trip
with the expectation of summering well
potential seasons awaiting anxiously

adjacent to stigmatic
translucent skies
It rains here

only when the sun is away

You speak to me

only once eye contact is lost
There’s water
less than clear
blue
leading to geographic blind spots
securing your visible obscurity
longing
writhing
pulling us into the deepest core
of liminal abandonment
Its latitude at 64°08' N makes it the world's northernmost capital of a sovereign state. It is located in southwestern Iceland, on the southern shore of Faxaflói Bay. The location of the first permanent settlement in Iceland, which Ingólfur Arnarson is said to have established around 870. Until the 18th century, there was no urban development in the city location. The city was founded in 1786 as an official trading town. It is often dubbed "the nightlife capital of the north."
There’s an interconnectedness realized as we arrive

Your Speedos on display
under your pea coat
places
you
on
a
pedestal
that screams at those who pass by

and doesn’t turn away

upon eye contact

You should have lied down
to disguise

your disgust

while black-eyed angels

sang a pyramid song

yielding the weakness you attempt to conceal

less than honorably

under the guise of an outsider
You are forced into
the diction of alienation

an estrangement from our community

The tradition of climbing standing

dominates
while we sit as the minority
Adrift you are ambitious

your experience                 our hindrance

The world is dying
as you attempt to live
leaving footprints on its decaying crust
Sturdy as it may seem
the scaffold is a transient
Place

behooves constancy
    with incessant still
        ness

There’s an unspooling

    a lengthening
            defenseless

backed by an infused fatigue

    a derivation of

your chase for

        sturdiness

Pinched from a piece of clay

    the asphalt
an unconscious recipient of a place
acts to regulate temperature
   as the attendant author
       ity

You pose as a figure of entry

    poised
    in
    brevity
        a marker for shelter
        from the pounding

    tracks

in search of a view
of potential landscape
Located in the northeast portion of the state, it is situated on the west bank of the Missouri River. As of the 2010 census, the city population was 35,251. Founded in 1854, was the first incorporated city in Kansas. Beneath the city appears to be another one entirely: a recently publicized underground series of "vaults" is thought to have been used for commerce, fugitives, or slavery. It is home to University of Saint Mary (Kansas), operated by the Sisters of Charity. Is sister city to the city of Wagga Wagga in the Australian state of New South Wales as well as the city of Ōmibachiman, Japan. Home of Leavenworth Federal Prison.
Your surroundings once consisted of terms of lesser intensity
and you were receptive to your acceptable stillness

Movement and stasis must work at regular intervals

you prefer the former

and you have yet to speak to other forms about their motion

Your action is based on speculation

a pressurized speculation
an accord signed in invisible ink

and you conform blindly

Your home
on the back of the third
    shelf of the pantry
next to the Italian Vegetable Progresso

Our home
    a two-way mirror
        its beauty polluted by emptiness
A military airport in Spain, near Madrid. It was used by the United States Air Force until 1996. Now it is used as a military airport by the Spanish Air Force and as the commercial Madrid-Torrejón Airport. During the Cold War the facility was headquarters of the Sixteenth Air Force (16 AF) of United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE), as well as home to the 401st Tactical Fighter Wing (401 TFW). It is now a major Spanish Air Force base and a secondary civilian airport for Madrid.
I like being the only stranger
you proclaim in a voice slightly strained

I can be anybody I want

You the perpetrator

Yourself the victim

waiting to be found

Your memories of yourself
accumulate randomly
not correlating
Would you be conversant
if the ground shook
and I appeared suddenly before
you in a crowded foyer?

Would you ignore me
like the phonemes that are a necessity
in the construct of your world?
In praxis
    circuitously seeking a freedom
        you deem essential

An adventure
    funneled as abortive
creates in its wake
    a radiance
    bordering on obscurity

    a diphthong
    leering at your hiatus
An emblem
masking absence
shackles your grief

just as I
again
become audible

and speak to you
in unimportant tones
A living rotation
            completes the habitation
of a creative circuit
while you seem  inclined
            to disclose your fixation of
limbo

Dominant with tension
            is the perplexity of
            place

as I come as the last line of where you began
The capital of the region of Campania. Known for its rich history, art, culture, architecture, music, and gastronomy. Located halfway between two volcanic areas, Mount Vesuvius and the Phlegraean Fields. Founded in the 9th-8th century BC as a Greek colony, it is one of the oldest cities in the world. Part of the Roman Republic as a major cultural center; the premiere Latin poet, Virgil, received part of his education there and later resided in its environs. Beneath it sits a series of caves and structures created by centuries of mining, which is in part of an underground geothermal zone.
You are center less as you go out on your own

The compass you employ
reads only
    East to West
North has been eliminated
from direction

and South has been scratched out
with vivid prescriptiveness

A run-on commentary

overlays as equivocation

with the size to replace a vernacular
A population of 66,194. The principal city of the Portland-South Portland-Biddeford metropolitan area, which includes Cumberland, York, and Sagadahoc counties. The city seal depicts a phoenix rising from ashes, which aligns with the city's motto, Resurgam, Latin for "I will rise again." The first European settler was Capt. Christopher Levett. Was first permanently settled in 1633 as a fishing and trading village named Casco. An independent film studio called the Maine Studios, located here, is home to the largest green screen in New England.
A weeping
   with an encompassing magnetism

I incorporate into the day to day

Your instantaneous aversion
   to the laboriousness
of my personal struggle
   with your absence

   resides as socially cathartic
I acknowledge your absence

with enormous complexity

filling this nothingness with indefinites

and move under

a canopy of fragments

Outside of myself

in consequence

I linger
I should have
    given you access
to roam
    across nomadic crossroads

    without a body

    while staying within the limits
of normal human mobility
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