

freefall

by SJ Valiquette

when trying to put a finger on home
when trying to suss out its shape and dimensions
when trying to sort out if it means something to her
she falls asleep and dreams up what seems to be
either a gazebo or a greenroom
there is a blinding white staircase with electric lighting
she's there with a burly ginger who tastes like-
she's there with a rough-edged youth who smells like-
when thinking about home she turns into
a woman who sleeps with the lights on
setting fire to her clothes and throwing them out the window
she thinks maybe she needs a room on stilts and the sound of a succubus
for the sleep to come
even when she's 4am-deep in it
home reminds her of acid reflux
and the desire to be held by the universe
standstill

floating

formless

freefall

she doesn't want to be caught-
can fall for anyone and any time
but cannot stick the landing
the fish doesn't want your hugs
(she dreams unsure if she is the fish)
and sharks certainly don't need your sympathy
she won't be told what to do until she's eaten all of your honey
that's how you'll know she's ready
she's still so angry
turns out she's an angry kind of person
the type to wake up screaming and never tell you why
and she's not going to grow your ivy for you
So what exactly are you going to do to welcome her home
and help her sleep?
nothing
and this is why she will not bother