



Girl with Death Mask

Jennifer Givhan

Indiana University Press (Mar 17, 2018)

Softcover \$10.00 (92pp)

978-0-253-03279-9

When cornered, we'll admit to preferring poetry with rhythm—musicality in the ear surely deepens a poem's effect. Yes, Jennifer Givhan, we're awed by your use of pause and pacing, as you lead us to better understanding a woman's landmine-filled journey out of childhood. Much awarded and published in top poetry journals, she is the author of two other collections and lives in New Mexico.

Shame~

No it's true I put on makeup for my rapist

*I loved him I know I shouldn't admit it
the way the wick melts into wax & needs*

*to be dug out I loved him so hard He still calls me
sometimes I didn't even realize what that night*

*should be called how naming things calls them
into being I bought a new skirt & I don't mean
before I mean after I even curled my hair*

*& maybe I'd curl it again I don't know
how long does it take to be cured They sell*

*new wicks in packs & you can stick one in deep
with a needle It'll burn the same You can burn
your skin if you're not careful I've done it I've*

*dreamt I'm not still dead
I wake on fire*

MATT SUTHERLAND (March/April 2018)

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