

Normal

Annalise Shearer

I wake to coyotes howling
in the night like women screaming
Wait for my heartbeat to slow
Try to go back to sleep
I rise at dawn to make him eggs
Two sunny-side up with toast
slathered in jam
He rolls out of bed in
his sweat-stained shirt
Bare feet padding on the faded tile
Chews and chews
Doesn't look at me
I rest my hands on my belly
like a child touching a globe
"It's a girl," they said
three months ago
I tried to smile
He stroked my hair
that day, said, "she'll be just like you"
I looked at my feet
threw up in the bathroom
They said, "that's normal"