

## Ascension

--Chavisa Woods

*the last breadth of recovery insists upon amnesia*

forget octagon frankenstein crown  
forget eight screws twisted into the flesh and bone of her sacred skull  
forget Reagan tossing out them wishbones  
your brother's still pickin down to pick  
the prison key's each month new incarceration,  
forget Twisted Sister thirteen-year-old bellybeaten out in the sandbox,  
miscarried time spilling from her slip

forget barefoot food stamping hunger cramping dry shame

forget jesus on unicorns in cornfields seizing about extinction

forget eviction's bright nail, mold couch broken on broken sidewalks

forget the rigormortus petrification at uninsured emergency sirens calling their frail bones  
to death's ocean

forget suicidesuicidesuicide, either way it's a failure  
forget decapitated loved head laid out on the traintrack nighthill  
and the one who leapt from the bridge  
and the one who hung  
and the one who swallowed pills  
and the one who blew his brains out  
and the one who blew his daughter's brains out  
and the one who's husband murdered her

forget murder  
forget rape

forget acid  
forget rape

forget apocalypse  
forget rape

forget endless drunk and the crystal people swarming insects never unmoving,  
bouncing like acid suns emitting solar flares of piss and blood

forget religion that tied you to a chair and held your head underwater till you shit your  
pants

forget the scream of dying birds fleeing power lines at rifle's howl,  
forget no option, no choice, tornados, the children you loved and watched grow into  
blistered factories, prisons, machine guns, needles, rat rooms, dirt mounds

forget raging schizophrenic volatility triggering your fingers to battery  
the red fetus chomping at your gut

abort it burry it lay it down don't strike