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 jesuses on unicorns in cornfields seizing about extinction

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

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

forget suicides, 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 acid forget apocalypse
forget rape forget rape 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 bury it lay it down don't strike