

The Vegan

Sionnain Buckley

In the morning when you wake, you roll over onto me and press your dry lips to mine. Your tongue tastes ripe and soft. I swallow everything that grew there overnight, scrape it gently from you with my teeth. Our mouths are one warm hole, breath on morning breath. You love to kiss me before anything else, before the dreams even slip out of your skull. We kiss with our eyes open, reminding ourselves of ourselves, and for the first minute or two I can tell you are still seeing something else. I drag my nails down your spine, along the backs of your thighs, and soon enough you remember me. You spit the dreams out into my mouth, and I don't even have to chew—I can feel them gallop down my throat, paw in restless circles when they land in my stomach.

We crack the window open just an inch. Goosebumps rise between us in the breeze, and I pull you closer, suck your warmth through my pores. You gasp when I bite your bottom lip. It splits between my teeth, leaks iron onto my waiting tongue. My glands ache to take you in, to keep biting, but I restrain myself.

You prop yourself up onto spread palms, balancing above me. You tell me you dreamt we went to a street fair, lined with stalls for blocks selling nothing but bacon. You kiss my chin. Thick cut bacon. You kiss my jawline. Candied bacon. You kiss the peak of my right cheek, then my left. Bacon stuffed baked potato, bacon cheeseburger, maple bacon ice cream. You lick the open curve of my upper lip. We ate everything, you tell me.

I laugh at you. In your dreams.

Yes, you say, exactly.

You pause there above me, grinning. I stare at you, watch the crack in the center of your lip gather blood, pool there in a stripe of red, swell into a droplet ready to fall. I open my mouth and wait for it.



Sionnain Buckley is a writer and visual artist originally from Long Island. She is currently a nomadic worktrader and occasional muralist. When she is not writing strange stories, she is consuming queer media and popcorn in equal measure. This is her first fiction publication.