

ALYSE BENSEL

21st Century Domestic

Radish leaves soaked under the faucet
sprout squirming children that grow
into sphinx moths or yellow paper
whites littering the kitchen floor.

She must tiptoe around their sleeping
bodies and feed them drops of sugar water
off her index finger. The click of the oven
sends them into a fury, so she adapts

a raw diet, eats only kale, leaves
out her oldest books for them to feast
on, until the day she opens the closet
to find the wedding dress eaten whole:

the moths drunk with silk, satiated
and ready to depart these crumbling walls.



ABOUT ALYSE BENSEL

Alyse BenseL is the author of *Shift* (Plan B Press 2012) and *Not of Their Own Making* (dancing girl press 2014). Her poems have appeared in *Mid-American Review*, *burntdistrict*, *Menacing Hedge*, *Heavy Feather Review*, and *Sugar Mule*, and she serves as the book review editor for *The Los Angeles Review* as well as the managing editor for *Beecher's*. She is a graduate teaching assistant at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, where she is a pursuing a PhD in creative writing. Online at alysebenseL.com.

