

MICHELLE LYNCH

Under the Black Alder

THIS heart

flowers in May,

a Venus with an appetite to meat.

the cure

the itch,

the Spring-time you will take

a handful of heat

as a jewel.

ABOUT THE POEM

“Under the Black Alder” was created from the *Complete Herbal* by Nicholas Culpeper (1653). About the poem and the process of composing it, Michelle Lynch writes:

This poem was constructed from the Black Alder section of Culpeper’s *Complete Herbal*. My process included copying out that section and then reading slowly for words to keep and words to erase. I kept hearing music and seeing a “merry month of May” scenario in my mind. I instantly vibed to the feminine energy popping from this section, so stayed true to that direction when finding the poem within.

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