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## Flowers for St. Germaine

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**Flowers for St. Germaine**

**Michael Cunningham**

What happened in the place where your heart resides / the scar tissue beating faster and pushing / the sanguineous fury towards your fingertips / What did it feel like when you reached for the strap / coffee brown leather and cheap plated bronze / Did the weight bear down on your calloused hand / striking that exquisite little creation // The yet to bloom suddenly making its thorns known / you threw it to the ground / tried stomping it into a mess of petals and fiber / yelling stop being a rose / damn your thorns / the rose responding / i can't i can't i can't stop being a rose / you gave me these thorns to protect me // A bright shock of red that would be flower now fading away / salty rain and petals on the sun-stained maple floor / The rose-hip it hoped to become / sweet and filled with vibrance / dashed to bits / and rotting // What made you choose the strap / the switch / the old spoon / the inside of your guilty hand / the back and its bumpy knuckles / the fist / Watching the red welts rise to the surface / taking the place of velvety petals / now wilted, shriveled and purple / Every stroke marking the distance from your days as a flower / when you still had petals / when you still had hopes of becoming fruit