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## R. LEIGH KRAFFT

### make your self at home

the hard edges of daylight return  
the abrupt clarity  
that comes with waking

the sun spilled on the table  
dripping over onto the floor  
carefully scrutinized by the gladiolus  
bright, orange and aware  
sentinels of my kitchen  
guarding every emotion I have left there  
sheltering them like shadows

I did not arrange them:  
grief in the deep pantry  
disappointment dangling among the tea  
towels  
rage spattered on the windowpane.  
I did not know they were here  
inhabiting the rag rug, the dirty tiles  
the old glass, the fainting plants

I did not know until this morning  
when I saw the gladiolus  
stiff and suspicious in the sunlight  
tending the little ghosts  
and smiling morning at me  
as I stand in the doorway  
looking sad and surprised

sensing myself  
in an empty room  
before I arrive

I did not realize  
I had left so many scars here  
I did not realize  
I had been feeding this room  
with my own flesh.

*R. Leigh Krafft has been published in The Otherside, Jones Av, and Labour of Love. She is currently working on her second chapbook.*