retrograde

& then it's time - as in the dark, we're in it:

this frenetic energy, it knows us how mothers

know us. how *merengue knows*. that bony hip

handhold. that push. a warm mouth tastes better

fleshed between small moments & we

we have more than enough. we forget to mention

the lights. the neighbors. say *polka dots*. say *please.*

trust is a quieter god than we've ever known.

our bodies are heavy with the knowing

of this night, how it strains reckless at the walls

lips dappled promise into a blaze & whispers

just once, oh, let us get it right just once

*with a line from What We Set In Motion by Geffrey Davis

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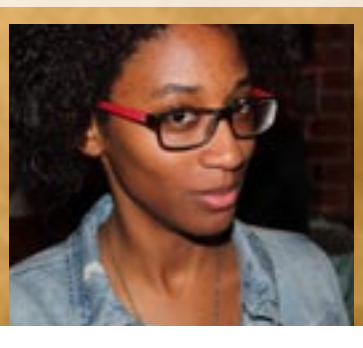
Keayva Mitchell



Keayva Mitchell's work has appeared in Black Napkin Press, Fight Evil With Poetry Wherewithal Lit, Incandescent Mind, and more. When she's not writing, you can find her desperately trying to keep her plants alive. She lives in Long Beach, California.