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Like Acheron but Not

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Like Acheron but Not

Abstract
My sister told me once that she made a river
when she was young
she told me how she dug
her fingers through the ground
til water welled like blood
from her scalp after running the comb
in her hair too hard.

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My sister told me once that she made a river when she was young. She told me how she dug her fingers through the ground til water welled like blood from her scalp after running the comb in her hair too hard.

She said the river smelled of damp, rot, dust, the inside of treasure chests in the rain-felled house. And the river was the color of rust water finally run clear but she knew that it held rust once.

She said it sounded like bells underwater, the kind fish might hear if they were called home for supper and that it tasted of the forest after the burning, the pavement, the parking lot formed.
She asked if I wondered what the river felt like.
I wondered how the river dreamed, what it remembered, who it longed for.

She asked again but I shook my head afraid that she might tell me the river just felt cold.

Chloe N. Clark is an MFA candidate in Creative Writing & Environment. Her work has appeared such places as Rosebud, Sleet, Menacing Hedge, and more. She is at work on a cycle of poems inspired in part by Supernatural and she invents cupcake recipes. For more of this wondrousness follow her @PintsNCupcakes or check out her blog Pints and Cupcakes.