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Go On Take Another Little Piece of My Heart

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Abstract

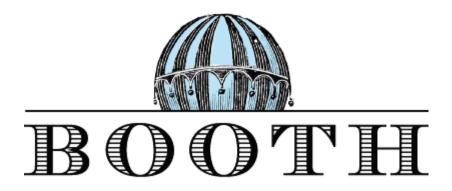
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Cover Page Footnote

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Go On Take Another Little Piece of My Heart

by Christopher Citro

One of the reasons I'm loathe in general to crack the bedroom door and scurry many-legged out is hearing praying mantises were never endangered. That's a lie and mythy. Clunk there goes another long drawer of my youth. If you can't believe what a kid down the road two years older than you tells you then who can you believe? Next they'll say swallowing a watermelon seed won't get you pregnant. I'll stay rather in bed. One foot in eight years old and the other outside the covers for heat regulation. In my dream I'll have built a mansion with well-lit staircases so never at the top will I step where there's no step slapping a Frankenstein foot too hard on nothing and feeling an animal shame. You can go to jail for eating an owl. Stick a hand out a car window and it'll get cut off. An ancient Greek was the last person to have known all there was to know. Or maybe it was someone medieval in a cold monastery surrounded by the dark hoards with their drinking and folk songs and rumpy-pumpy. How would he know he knew everything? And if it's just something we made up why do we need so to build our monster in our image? The monks named their arguments the names of women because they were monks and men without women. Three A propositions (Every X is Y) in a row was Barbara. Hello Barbara! In a hard cell on a night lasting several hundred years, a monk hunkers down on a straw mat. No one knocks at the door but the wind with everything behind it.

Christopher Citro is the author of *The Maintenance of the Shimmy-Shammy* (Steel Toe Books, 2015). He is the winner of *Columbia Magazine's* 2015 Poetry Writing Competition, and his recent and upcoming publications include poetry in *Best New Poets 2014, Prairie Schooner, Ninth Letter, Witness, Poetry Northwest, The Greensboro Review*, and *Verse Daily*, and creative nonfiction in *Boulevard* and *Colorado Review*. He received his MFA in poetry from Indiana University and lives in Syracuse, NY.