

GRINDR OPERA
MICHAEL RUSSELL



POETRY TO WATCH BOYS TO

I like the air hot
with lilies and musk—
skins bronzed
from summer work, sticky
with sweat
warm and wet, feral.
I want to kiss—*this one*—
somewhere other than forehead or cheek
maybe bury my lips
in the dead animal of his chest.
I hope he knows
I've already seen him
slice through firewood
like margarine.
I hope he knows I want him
to take me
in my beach-white button-up,
brown eyes flecked with orange.
Boy, you're not the only one
with primal instincts—
I stand half naked in the arc
of French windows
waiting for your claws
to scrape away the dead skin
of this mirage.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michael Russell is a queer poet with BPD, Bipolar Disorder and massive jolts of anxiety. He lives in Toronto. His work has appeared in *The Maynard*, (*parenthetical*), *Prairie Fire*, *The Quilliad*, *untethered* among other places. He thinks you're fantabulous.
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ABOUT THE ARTIST

Trish Malcomess was born and raised in South Africa and now lives in the Comox Valley where her practice is often inspired and informed by the natural environment to be found on Vancouver Island. She finds inspiration in the resilience of human nature which is reflected in her interdisciplinary work, blurring boundaries between sculpture, ceramics, drawing, photography, painting and life.

ABOUT THE BOOK

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