

5-1-2022

six of cups reversed

Kat Johnson
SUNY Geneseo

Follow this and additional works at: <https://knightscholar.geneseo.edu/gandy-dancer>



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Johnson, Kat (2022) "six of cups reversed," *Gandy Dancer Archives*: Vol. 10: Iss. 2, Article 14.
Available at: <https://knightscholar.geneseo.edu/gandy-dancer/vol10/iss2/14>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by KnightScholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Gandy Dancer Archives by an authorized editor of KnightScholar. For more information, please contact KnightScholar@geneseo.edu.

six of cups reversed

when i was a little girl i used to take baths every day. draw on the walls with bathtub-safe
crayons,
etching my thoughts and feelings into something that could be scrubbed away by my mom's
dry, cracked hands. sometimes, my mom drops me off at my dad's. comes into the kitchen
and notices
the walls are painted a different color than they used to be. behind the bathroom door, i can
hear her
crying. i used to turn the faucet all the way to hot. press my palms into the water, splash my
face with the cold of the sink after i got out. wrap myself in a towel, shivering skin touching
the icy tile floor.
crawl into satin pants and slippers and wait by the door.

sometimes, when i was a little girl

when little a girl

sometimes i was a girl

sometimes

when i was little

i would creep quietly to my
parents' bedroom door and

work up the courage to knock.
nothing was wrong

except
my hear
tbeat p
ulsing
throu
gh my
veins
a train

through silent suburbia in the middle
of the night. *what's wrong,*

honey? my mom would ask, her love only
can censor so much of the sound of

my father's hesitancy and *she's fine send her back* *to sleep.*