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Krystal Languell

Catalogue of Humiliations

throwing rocks at cars

throwing snowballs at strangers

throwing trash out of a moving schoolbus

having a chair pulled out from under my feet

prying up the crumbling edge of my street

being told to put the chunk of asphalt back by a woman about to die

spitting in another girl's hair

lying about knowing the word *Christian*

arranging the desks so I'd sit next to boys

my mother in the ER the morning she pulled my hair to put in stupid ribbon barrettes

a hot chocolate mug that plugs into the wall socket

puking on every holiday for a lot of years

Easter going home in a blanket, clothes covered in vomit in a freezer bag
missing the poetry reading because I'd lost my voice
attending the poetry reading the day my boyfriend broke up with me
Mary Gaitskill said she liked my glasses in 2007
Home Alone VHS tape Xmas present
my aunt wanted to take me to Kokomo, Ind.
I thought she meant from the Beach Boys song
being the flower girl at my parents' wedding
eating Swedish meatballs from Gordon Food Service
staying with my grandma while my parents honeymooned in Vegas
my punishment was to write 250 words on why spitting is bad
looking at the ducklings in the courtyard through the classroom window
ten years later my 1st grade teacher's hair gone from gray to brown
my 6th grade social studies teacher dead of cancer
she taught the girls' sex ed curriculum and defined the term *bowel movement*
being a Barbie for Halloween in kindergarten
nearly meeting Michael Martone so many times it's like we're friends
the school counselor who took me to see my mom in the hospital
his teenage daughter dead from leukemia a few years later
watching the OJ verdict in school in 6th grade
disallowed from the field trip bus with movies for well-behaved children
disallowed from watching *Fern Gully: The Last Rainforest*
smashed in the face with a plastic lunchbox by a boy who talked his way out of punishment with the principal
said he thought I was a boy but the lunchbox swung on his wrist

kayaking on the East Race with my grandpa once
dumping a lunch tray over onto my feet
chicken and noodles on my new laces
tripping on my way to receive an award at a gymnasium ceremony
crying behind my shitty certificate
the Burger King coupon or Pizza Hut Book-It program hologram stickers
burying the for-sale sign in my friend's front yard with snow
burning board game pieces in the bathroom sink
someone's older sister putting makeup on me at a sleepover
my mother burning my forehead with the curling iron before photos at Olan Mills
ducking down in the backseat not to be seen in the Kmart parking lot
walking the last block to my friend's house so she wouldn't see the ugly van my mom drove
doing Bloody Mary in the elementary school girls' room
my 5th grade teacher saying "electronic mail"
being too young for softball
playing tee ball with the little girls while my classmates learned to pitch
forced to wear adult size large t-shirts through adolescence
told I asked great-grandma "Why do you have so many wrinkles?"
told I opened all the Xmas presents and said "Where are the rest?"
collecting the pouches of spare buttons off the ladies' blouses in the department store
driving a scooter straight into a fence while my mom videotaped
allegedly shoplifting a baby monkey stuffed animal from the drugstore
accused of cheating in a reading speed contest
accused of tracing in a drawing contest

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boy on the playground ripping off my necklace

smashing my glasses into my face on the parallel bars

shutting my thumb in the bathroom stall door when we had to hold them closed for each other

shutting my thumb in the car door

skinning my knees in my 20's

getting lost in the woods in Virginia while I could hear the highway

losing my boyfriend's debit card

an old man doctor telling me he can remove my acne scars

making friends to play with their toys or be close to their mothers

the gym teacher tracking our periods with a clipboard to force us to take our panties off in the shower

anonymously reported to the guidance counselor for suspected anorexia twice

bit in the face by a dog while playing Mike Tyson's Punch-Out

asking my mom to sell my New Kids on the Block tickets because I couldn't handle how excited I was

asked in the carpool if mine was a 'university family'

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