

First Date

Adriana Zdravec

my moment arrived
in a package i had dreamed of
day and night
for the very first time
but it was not meant to be mine

fear owns me

she owns me, steals my air
sucks it all away and i am breathless
but i mistake her for longing
and love,
naïveté, novelty, nerves
and normalcy
as i wither and weaken and hang
listlessly and rot incessantly
and i push and push and push
for what should be real and true and perfect

exactly what i ordered,
a milestone
carried to me on a silver platter
i should have been excited - delighted, even

i can't escape her
she roils up through my blood and bones
overshadows my brain and beats my heart
into submission
i have no choice
but to follow the scarlet trail

to glaring red lights.
she doesn't stop
but i do

my gut leads me
and it is right
she knew better
she brags
as if she was not
the one who caused
my careening
into the ditch

fear, she owns me



Memoirs of Spring
by Zeyna Al Gutani