21 lines

IF I COULD TAKE WORDS

If I could take words, I would.

I would fold them like cool moist rags,

Anchor them to your feverish brow,

Chain your ankles and wrists with them.

Words ~ fetter, gnash, seethe.

If I could critique words, I would.

I would clutch them to me all night long,

Plaster them like a salve,

Wrap your bones and skin in them.

Words nudge blisters away.

If I could print words, I would.

I would rake them through hair,

Carve them with a Sharpie,

Tattoo your membrane in their fervid blood.

Words, slick inside the ear.

If I could create words, I would.

I would stroke the dense thread count,

Stitch every gaping wound,

Fuss over you with jazz, silk, and thyme.

Words ~ murmur, breathe, flee.

If I could take words, I would.