

## **Anna Teresa Slater**

### **Under Control**

In this memory I made up  
I can love you. You'd be the high-wire

dance between the lightning  
and the thunderclap. I'd disturb

the moment with my wildebeest cry.  
You'd wave your hands like a circus

master, your baton flying like loaded  
wildfire, fingertips igniting earthquakes

in the uncorked sky. It is possible.  
Five seconds is all it would take. Five

seconds there would be no such thing  
as heartache, no bloodhounds nipping

at the flowers behind my ears. My toes  
would cease to touch the starkness

of the ground. In this memory, you'll tell me  
you're ready for more, I would say *No*,

*turn back, this is all I want from you.*

**Anna Teresa Slater** is a teacher from Iloilo, Philippines, and a postgraduate student in Creative Writing at Lancaster University. Her work is published or forthcoming in *Channel Lit Mag*, *Ghost City Review*, *Shot Glass Journal*, *The Literary Nest*, *Door is a Jar*, *Song of Eretz*, *Better than Starbucks*, *The Big Windows Review*, *Nine Muses Poetry*, and more, as well as in anthologies by Kasingkasing Press and Hedgehog Poetry Press.