

## Cex

# "The Marriage"

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the night before we had discussed it extensively over  
the phone  
that was where me and melanie kept our relationship  
safe  
revelations took place during commercial breaks  
and we'd say we were running away and settling  
in the theatre where they shot david letterman  
our only hope for some understanding  
he'd take care of us, ??? parents  
but the marriage itself  
it was hurried and casual  
i don't know where she came up the ritual  
after the bell and before second period  
out in the hall she gave me a petal  
we swallowed to pieces of flowers together  
and then we were married  
until she said one of us lied to the other  
that meant that the petals inside us were dead

i got married  
i got scared to death  
i got sick  
from all the petals i haven't eaten  
say yes to me, take this ??? in destiny  
say i do, make me believe it

ten months of marriage and no consummation  
right there for the taking  
this scared 7th grader could not kiss her  
just the thought of first base  
and surprise, i'm MIA from the stadium  
??? and greenside, an open drainage pipe, beckoning  
inside  
??? waiting, i pussied out nervous  
alone, above ground, to the place where the sewers  
resurfaced i walked  
afraid of the dark, afraid i'd stay pushing away what i  
wanted  
but clearly more fearful of acting, of getting it  
behind the library we sat together  
and she liked the veins in my wrist, she touched them

her first boyfriend bill, before his expulsion  
brought her here for what she called mouthrape  
so i never tried it, beside her afraid  
i saw her a year ago, might have been more  
she was working at janda, a cockiesville florist  
said nothing of course, tongue sore from the biting  
well aware of the corpse of those petals inside me

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