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Elegy: Jezebel

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DENISE JARROTT

ELEGY: JEZEBEL

Piecemeal, portioned

in little boxes of a design
precisely carved, precise

the portion each containing precisely one portion of she

who paints her face before sliding out the window, before
dogs.

Over and over nothing if not devoted to the god which bears her name
embedded, the god within her name god of windows, god
of rotation, god of bellies marked with lacerations bring
me

to this nation and give me my portion. leave them

piecemeal.

Rotated, wedded

to death: and interested in who belongs
to whom: who belongs: to death. I am a jealous

god, and I will have none other.

I am a jealous

wife, and I will take this place piecemeal.

Jezebel, whose name means:

devoted whose name means

collar whose name means:

she who is wedded to a single mind, a single

name, whose name means golden

cover this body in golden

and all of his people shall be torn piecemeal, and

all of his people shall know of me. jealous god, he

and his people. candle, briefly lit in a window

wherefrom

the queen met the faces of they who appeared legion

mouth. in her dreams, golden eyes wet ears, foam about the
in death, even, the dogs lick their yellow teeth.

What love I've given I've given piecemeal. What devotion I've promised as I
light a candle in my window: a ritual that dies like a language spoken by the
dead.

That light was not mine to give. I give it piecemeal as if to mouths under the table.