

ICELAND IS

MELTING

AND

SO ARE YOU



# ICELAND IS MELTING AND SO ARE YOU

TALYA RUBIN

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# *DEAD ICE*

# THE SNOW QUEEN

What if a shard of tainted glass alighted  
in your eye and the world went white—

a fouled lullaby

And the girl of your dreams turned out  
to be the Snow Queen

And you got caught in rose brambles  
trying to make things right

And one drop of blood began a litany  
of blood and the rivers ran red

And the petals off peonies fell to land  
weeping in defeat

And you called this a regular day on earth  
because now the great undoing had begun


And desperate thieves failed to stuff diamonds  
back into the shifting ground

And the thunder of collapse was so deafening  
it overtook the traffic, like the crackle

of bushfire ripping through pine plantations  
screaming through ancient stands of forest

And the tumble of glaciers and ice floes  
went unnoticed, except their distant rumble





was everywhere in our veins  
And the highways that criss-crossed LA

like snakes, stood still, their  
twisted bodies a monument to

a chrysanthemum's deadheaded gaze

And buses shuttled empty, their ghost passengers  
staring out ghost windows onto ghost streets

at the world we made and unmade, made and unmade  
until it made us, finally made us, into who we are