

**Esmé Beaumont**

## **Did you bury her yet?**

*“Take the plunge. Water’s right there. C’mon, I can see you aching from all the way across the room.”*  
– Keaton St James, ‘A Study in Trans Masculinity’

Listen, kid: are you, or are you not,  
The boy in the poem?

He knows I’m here; he knows  
What I sound like, he knows  
I can swim. He knows,  
He knows—

Did you, or did you not, hide  
The body? Did you, or did you not,  
Keep digging—

All night—

I kept digging. The sun rose,  
And I kept digging, lungs  
Burning. Listen, kid:

Broken ribs aren’t worth it,  
Kid: bandages aren’t for this kind of wound,

Kid: you’re twenty-four years old.  
Get over it. You swim or you drown,  
Kid. She swims and you drown.