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## Cuttings

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*Hannah Dow*

## **CUTTINGS**

In Hebrew, my name means favor, grace—  
but I take more than I give. I idle  
the mornings long after you go and spend  
my days buying plants to purify  
the inside air. I pick ones called “mother-  
-in-law’s tongue” or “viper’s bowstring hemp”—  
ones with the sharpest leaves. My life so far

is not without its edges. I have learned to make  
myself dry to the touch and ask for things  
I do not need: steady light, an unobstructed  
view. Evenings, I linger by the door  
until you come home, promise that tomorrow  
I will try harder, will cede this barrenness,  
even if I have to split myself in two.