

2016

## Before the Birth of Venus

Lauren Goodwin Slaughter

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.library.uab.edu/pms>



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#), and the [English Language and Literature Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Slaughter, Lauren Goodwin (2016) "Before the Birth of Venus," *PoemMemoirStory*. Vol. 15, Article 22.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.library.uab.edu/pms/vol15/iss2016/22>

This content has been accepted for inclusion by an authorized administrator of the UAB Digital Commons, and is provided as a free open access item. All inquiries regarding this item or the UAB Digital Commons should be directed to the [UAB Libraries Office of Scholarly Communication](#).

*Lauren Goodwin Slaughter*

BEFORE *THE BIRTH OF VENUS*

Who doesn't know her  
molten spill, the hot locks

Zephyrus blew into style  
perpetual, the graceful fistful

of split-ends that hide the beauty's  
newly-wooled pudenda?

But figure all those floating years  
before the shell ship wrecked

her lazing in the tonsured sunset  
of a cup, drifting just to drift

on green swirling maybe  
letting her lids seal fractals,

fingers dip and groove that wet salt  
feeling for smooches of the curious

cloud-strokes—vital, raw, briny—  
divulged entirely.