

BILLY-RAY BELCOURT

Love is a Moontime Teaching

love is a moontime teaching
is your kookum's crooked smile when you pick up the phone
is another word for body
body is another word for campfire smoke
campfire smoke is the smell he leaves behind in your bed sheets
after the breakup
the word for hate sex is forest
forest sometimes means hope or lonely (depends on who you ask)
lonely is a movie called *taxi zum klo* about white gay men
who risk tiptoeing through desire's
minefields for ten minutes of something better than living
living is going to bingo to pay the bills after you quit your job
that barely paid the bills
paying the bills is sometimes a metaphor for cancer
cancer is a diagnosis handed down to an 18-year-old girl from the rez
the rez is another word for body
the body is a myth
is the only good news the doctor gives you when your cells run amok
amok is the border that the skin doesn't remember how to secure
anymore
anymore is the feeling you get when a police officer pulls you over
because he thinks you're driving a stolen vehicle
a stolen vehicle is the nickname you give to love
love is the nickname you give to the hole in the wall from that time
your cousin's boyfriend punched it
a hole in the wall is what you call the present and the labour it takes
to survive