

# Ruin

/ru:In/

*noun*

1. The ancient predecessors of your fingertips, the bloodstain and the church bone. It's what God looks like on the lips and every shade of ghost.
2. The state of gladiator in armoury, the off and on of the Ares and Aphrodite. The metal and liquid-silver of memory and war when every victory was a graveyard.
3. The voodoo doll and the needle. The speech and the whisper. The reminiscing of a time when the blood of my pricked fingers were pearls and I made a soliloquy of trying too hard to sew myself together.
4. The summoning of past as a plague. The spread of messy bed sheets and lipstick as a disease.
5. The realisation that London is burning and that Rome was always meant to fall.

# Shipwreck

/Ship-rek/

*noun*

1. The act of self-destruction when in the water, of wearing gloves to hide the barnacles between your finger bones.
2. You learn how to ballroom dance with your Father's ghost. Every step like a tsunami, chaotic fingertip foam and hair salt excretion. He sings like an anchor and weighs you down much the same way, the wavelength and body of every echo.
3. You see your Grandmother in the mirror more times than you can count, blue to her lips and rattling on the inside. She distorts her reflection intentionally, likes the idea of ripple and ash and that things that are true aren't always what they should be. She names you Thalassa, and burns your immortality away through blackout chandeliers and empty dinner parties. You erase it from your mind as it erases you, the kind of memory that remembers being forgotten.
4. The sirens are bleeding out a tune on the nearest sea rock and it goes 'It's a secret how you're awake.' You close your eyes at the sound of it. Peaceful mid-drown, dislocate your pelican wings over the island and bathe yourself in sand like it could freeze. Open your cavern mouth, all pearl and clam with the stolen ships inside, set your wings ablaze underwater and dispose of the key.
5. She dallies so much in ghosts that she learned how to become one. Makes her home under an iceberg as a human Titanic. Goes under water, dances with her Father's ghost and drowns in her words.
6. 'There's no place like home.'