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This Color Brown

Lenora Castillo

This color brown
is no silk shawl
I drape around my shoulders
to impress
nor winter coat
thrown out when worn
or out of style
this color brown

This color brown
does not rub off nor
wash away or disappear
if I close my eyes
and pray
or claim that I
am something else
besides
this color brown

This color brown
makes you cross the street
avoid my eyes,
my smile
my voice...
this color brown

This color brown
is what I am
what I will always be...
Look at me!
I weep, I bleed,
I sing and dance and read and curse and...
love
I am like you...except
this color brown.