

When I'm Afraid with You

converting a cactus into a spray
when I'm afraid with you

convincing yarn to be kind to our animals
when I'm afraid with you

I stop biting on blue lights
when I'm afraid with you

you mince myth
when I'm afraid with you

covered in comfort, alone and together
when I'm afraid with you

careening and pearlescent, a moth, someone getting sick
when I'm afraid with you

I'd laugh too, rubber wonder, as lenient as I can be
when I'm afraid with you

phone never answered, shakes in spurts on concrete
when I'm afraid with you

"I don't know," easy to admit, thin air, touching your stomach
when I'm afraid with you

we stage the opera where I am Rodolfo
and you the delicate profile, unmoored, thrashing
and when I turn to you as I must
I sing "Line—Line—"