

# SLITHER

## Black Dresses

"1. We slithered out of your reach. All of us had someone like you to run from. Our wings were clipped and our limbs were damaged but we crawled and picked our way as far out as we could."

"2. We lived by the water. Took care of something that made its home deep below the surface. The mother of the depths returned our kindness by giving us her flesh to sustain us. She was sick and diseased like we all were, but she kept us alive."

"3. Things settled and some of our feathers started to grow back, a different color than before. Our bones began to heal- at new angles, but almost as strong as they used to be. We held each other close at night and whispered that things were different now. Things were safe. We had to be reminded nightly, or else we'd forget."

"4. You found us. You came while we were sleeping. You talked with warm familiarity and I threw up at your feet. You asked me what was wrong-sincere-and I couldn't answer. I wish it was easier to hate you. I wish you were a bad person, but instead I just think that I am for wanting that."

"5. We drove you away, haltingly. I told you I needed more time as if I hadn't already decided what you were to me. I wish you knew what you did, but I don't want to tell you. It would be easier if you were something I had nightmares about instead of ugly, complicated dreams. I want to flatten you into a villain but I think that would only turn me into one. Please leave me alone. I'm happy now. I'm happy here. Please don't look for me. I promise I'm okay. Please go."

Listen to me. I'm going to speak plainly  
I'm not going to say your name. I'm afraid  
Because of what I know you won't mention  
All those years of horrible tension  
I don't think you're a monster, hardly  
I just think that you fucked up, badly  
I can never tell you what you did to me  
So I have to settle for this, I hope truly  
That you never hear these words that I'm speaking  
This is just for me as I'm healing  
It's not my fault that my soul is a war  
That I don't want to say I love you on the phone anymore  
I blame you. But I don't want to hate you  
But maybe that's because I'm afraid to  
There is a memory of when I was young and I admired you so much

There is a memory of when I was young and I admired you so much  
(We got away, but everything reminds us)  
There is a memory of when I was young and I admired you so much  
(We got away, but everything reminds us)  
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(We got away, but everything reminds us)  
I admired you so much

"6. What comes next? Is there anything after? Where will we go to now?  
? Who will we become?"

I wonder  
I've never wondered before

Everything always changes but it's always the same  
Everything always changes, it flickers like flames  
Everything always changes, dice roll to a different face  
Everything always changes, new skin, new face  
Everything always changes but it's different sides of one thing  
Everything always changes, in a circle, in a ring