Burnt Prairie

Joseph Kerschbaum

The winds
Reminder
Through the field surrounding my house
The winds outside twist
Through the bare branches that leave me behind
Holding
A handful of myself
The skies above are pregnant
With the rain they will not drop
The rain will be inconsequential
Everything in my eyesight
Was set a blaze and left behind
None of this
Can soak up anything, anymore, anyway
The top soil and everything below is dead
The seasons no longer change
There are no leaves descending
And the fields are just waiting rooms
Filled
With patiently torched blades of grass
I watched the prairie burn
And did nothing
I wait for a change that has already occurred
At night I dance in the fields
A dance of stumbling feet
Open mouths and grasping fists
If I could sacrifice something
I would sacrifice everything
Opening my arms to change
I embrace the possible
And hide from every stranger walking down these dirt roads
Is it like this everywhere
Fleshless fields of amnesia and ability
Are there other people standing in fields
Watching the moon rise and fall appear and disappear
Out here the wind is the only movement
The only thing able to leave
It's cold against my skin
And reminds me of kites I once flew

I wasn't always like this

Lyrics submitted by Katie Gross.

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