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KATHERENA VERMETTE

MIXED TAPE

side a:

1. 18 and Life
her friend takes her to
the guidance counselor
she doesn’t see the point
but her friend won’t go
without her

2. Patience
the dining room table
stacked with papers
her brother’s face
on all of them
like labels
on cans of soup

3. Long Cold Winter
his football team
organizes a search party
scruffy boys in
orange jerseys climb
snow banks
along the river
north
all the way to
lockport

4. Without You
she is as still as silence
jolts every time
the phone rings

5. More than Words
the family sliced into wedges
like pie

6. Don’t Know What You Got
the cold
wet
quiet
when
everyone else
leaves

side b:
7. Nothing Else Matters
the family goes to two psychics
and an elder
8. Every Rose has Its Thorn
one says he will call soon
one says he is dead
one says he is
traveling
north
9. What You Give
words
evaporate
condense
in the air
drip
down
walls
10. Don’t Cry
her stepfather
tells everyone
his son is
dead
and he isn’t going to look
anymore
11. Home Sweet Home
her mother moves
wide and slow
almost imperceptible
limbs floating
as if in water
12. November Rain
the girl walks under
winter naked elms
such a cold november
a season warmer
than her house