## Helli Fang's VILLAGE OF KNIVES

## FEBRUARY 25TH 2020

HARROWING POEMS THAT CALL FORTH THE EXPERIENCES OF ASIAN AMERICAN IDENTITY AND GENERATIONAL TENSION

"Train-sounds, dew-sounds, sounds from the hair, prayerful sounds and python sounds, fish market then mooncake sounds, sounds of falling into water, sounds of rising from fire —these are the sounds of *Village of Knives*, a collection that speaks through how much, how closely and imaginatively it listens. The poems here listen to immigrant life and dream, to gendered expectation and subversion, to desire, to the body's surging, briny rhythms. This is a poet who understands the power of paring away the noise to zero in on the music: 'How we turned off all the lights in the house / & fell to our knees / just to hear the sound of bone.'"

> — Chen Chen, author of When I Grow Up I Want to be a List of Further Possibilities

**Helli Fang** is an undergraduate student at Bard College. Her poetry has appeared or is forthcoming in *Diode, The Margins, Salt Hill, The Adroit Journal*, and more, and has been recognized by Columbia College of Chicago and Bennington College.



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## ars poetica

caged in the herring's rib, my throat, bleached blue by silence, pulled the last latch, limbs still

strapped to a bullet belonging to someone else: & when my body entered flesh

it turned into rain, an arrowhead boxcut from stalactite and salt, trying to spin a bowl

of wedding rings back into clay, miming a language with ice cubes for teeth: not about

where the lake hides, but whether it wants to be seen. to write a poem is to build a burning body.

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