contents

notes & acknowledgments · 1

• i •

what had happened · 11
gxrl gospel i · 13

portrait of rage with caution tape & bullhorns · 15

war strategies for every hood · 17

i, too, sing america · 19

no name in the street · 20
gxrl gospel ii · 22
gxrl gospel iii · 25

transhistorical for the x in my gxrls · 26

& not by sight · 32

• ii •

the creek behind my childhood home
was one of those small heavens · 35

& what is a heaven without a god to break it · 36

some of the men we love are terrorists · 37

father-son & holy · 38

unholy ghazal · 40

yes, i am done with the god of white men · 41
gxrl gospel iv · 43

transhistorical and i observe the Sabbath like a ill verse · 45

independent · 47

listen, · 48

a poem of failures · 50
held like arsenic in each of my kin’s mouths · 52
CPT or lessons in god-timing · 56

• iii •
gumbo ya ya · 61

• iv •
pantoum for aiyana · 75
gorgia me · 77
like a freedom too strange to be conquered · 79
thottin on fountain drive · 81
the world between me is gender · 84
transhistorical for the men we love · 85
filé · 87
egungun · 89
wayward experiments · 90
this poem is a hex, tread light · 92
psalm in which i demand a new name for my kin · 95
in the event i become some unrecognizable beast · 97

more notes · 101

acknowledgments · 105