

Yael MasSEN

**All This & Love Too**

You beside your mother's bed for the eleventh hour  
This will kill you

You waving your finger in the officer's face  
This will kill you

You banging your head against a holy stone

Your fingers gripped around a barrel  
Your baby hitched against your chest

Your hands the newspaper you clench  
You at home watching the street burn  
You at home not watching  
This will kill you

You at home helping your mother to the toilet  
You at home yelling from the toilet  
You not at home yelling about a home  
You not at home thinking about your mother in bed  
This will kill you

You not in your bed at the top of the stairs

You insisting on returning somewhere

You in a bed waiting for someone to return  
You watching the door

You in the doorway unwanted

You the house with not enough doors

You with the missing deadbolt  
You pissing with the door unlocked the door open  
You your own mother  
Someone else's mother  
You your mother's mother  
This will kill you



You again at the top of the stairs

You with too many keys hanging from your neck

You the inherited

You in the uniforms

You asleep in your uniforms

If sleep is listening

This will kill you

You who is kicked

You who kicks Do it I dare you do it you shit

Do it this will kill you I dare you

This will kill you

You who watched a daughter die slowly

You who made the body that kills her

You covered

You gloved you wrapped you masked

You who caution disease

This will still kill you

You lift your mother into bed at the window

You again her daughter

You who draws the curtains

You the light in the backyard

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**Yael Massen** received her MFA in Poetry from Indiana University. Her poems and translations can be found within the pages and URLs of *Colorado Review*, *DIAGRAM*, *Third Coast*, *The Journal*, and *Waxwing*. She is a recipient of the 2016 Vera Meyer Strube Academy of American Poets Award and the 2016 Kraft-Kinsey Award from the Kinsey Institute. [www.yaelmassen.com](http://www.yaelmassen.com)

