

“They Call Me” A Story in Verse by Audrey M.

You see me in the Dark,
And when you blink I disappear
You can feel me watching.
Dreading nightfall

I am present when you come down the winding road,
See the string coming out of the gutter
The way you swerve in your car
When you see the deer

I am the birds that swarm your car
on your way to the airport
The conjoined bugs that splat
Against the windshield

I am the lights in
The abandoned home
The lone box of ashes
In the forest

I am the fear
When the doorbell rings at 2 in the morning
The wait before
The test

I am the people watching and waiting
For the disaster to strike
The missing dog dead
In the middle of the road

I am the heat of summer
In Texas
The shock of the winter storm
That comes in February

I am why they
Scream
And yell
I am why they jump

I am the reason
That the child screams
I am why
The monsters are so terrifying

I am always starving
Waiting for the next meal
The way the hope dissolves in

Their eyes

I was born from the nameless
Who I promptly devoured
Tasting their love and terror intermingle
Into one feeling

I am here
But there as well
Somedays
I am in every home
In all the world