

## iv. the navigator - blood orange tarot

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### IV. The Navigator

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*Merciless*

by Sarah Henstra

We decided the dog would travel back and forth

With the kids.

Shark-toothed weeds edged the moon pool.

Your brow was creased as maybe in a dream.

There's no point talking, you said,

If we're going to get emotional.

Last night she lay, panting, across my

Threshold as loneliness struck, shed

Its merciless light.

My plan now is stick to routines:

A wagging tail for my journey between towers,

A lolling tongue.

**Sarah Henstra** (she/her)'s novel *The Red Word* won the 2018 Governor General's Literary Award. Sarah is a professor in the Department of English at Toronto Metropolitan University.

- *blood orange* ran from 2019 — 2022
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