



The Me I Hold Inside My Heart

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She is a goddess
She is cool ranch Doritos and barbecue lays
There is spice on her breath and a song on her lips
She is **bold Sharpie**
She's got a heart of cheese and masala blood
She is sugar and spice
(but mostly spice)
She's got a cockroach soul:
(the power to survive)
Her hard edges tempered with cake and cookies
(sweet things)
She is Crow Love
(loud and shiny)
but smooth and persistent
like a salmon, wiggling through the water
She is the Bullfrog Queen
croaking her heart out to the whole world
She nests in my ribcage,
collecting strange things to fill her chaotic heart
lost hair ties and pencils and joy
She is everything
She is the universe and my bedroom
She is water,
Swimming, and staying afloat,
in a world that's hell-bent on drowning her.



This broadside was created in celebration of Seattle Arts & Lectures' Writers in the Schools (WITS) program's Year End Reading. It was written at Renaissance School of Art and Reasoning during the 2022-23 school year with WITS Writer-in-Residence, Matt Gano.