

While Wandering in Montreal, I Mistake Desire for That
Feeling You Get When You Actually Want to Be Another
Person

Margaret Ray

If I look at a woman outside this grocery
I won't say waif-like won't say boyish
her shaved head her thin neck
these are words I've been taught
by male writers how can my looking
be different or differently charged
if I still want to look at her body but
all I have are the same old words
here people are speaking in French
which sounds soft romantic
but it's a language of invaders like
English just think how it got here
I got here by driving across the border
from Vermont and also via a violent history
of colonization I am looking
at this woman and wanting
maybe I can turn instead to my own
breath elevated temperature only slightly
where is the border
between wanting and wanting
to be wanting to touch her skin or
live inside it sometimes the tv shows me
what I've been wanting all this time
and didn't know it I watch *Killing
Eve* and I think Oh oh I want to dress
up and be someone else oh I want
her to cut me like that