

# Kissing Cobras

*by Johnny Dantonio*

Flirting,  
tongues flickering like candlelight,  
coiling around one another,  
unwrapping slowly,  
hypnotized on each other's neck,  
vampires,  
hellebore soaked fangs.

The two straighten,  
then bow,  
then sit up,  
ocular level again,  
she pounces,  
wilting him at the levator.

She administers the alkaloids slowly,  
soaking the muscles in blight,  
the body tissue beneath into corrosion.

With release,  
he falls heavy,  
paralytic,  
his eyes open as she starts to feast,  
stretching herself to swallow his head first,  
inhaling the thickness that follows.

With the ingestion, she trembles,  
the meal, thawed,  
invested now by all of him,  
crumbling,  
eyes strained wide,  
blood moving in viscid rivers,

her venom coming back to poison her.

