



LADY BUSINESS

A Celebration of Lesbian Poetry

 Sibling Rivalry Press

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BRIT BLALOCK

**MY MOTHER
MADE ME
WEAR THIS DRESS**

BRIT BLALOCK recently completed her MFA in poetry at New York University. Her work has previously appeared or is forthcoming in *Booth*, *Blood Orange Review*, Argos Books' *Little Anthology*, and more. Blalock is originally from the Alabama gulf coast.

RUTH 5:1-8

¹Ruth often left the bed of Boaz in the hollow of the night. His arm fell too harshly against her eggshell ribs. ²Hours before the sun began to slope, she would flee to the room where Naomi slept, holding Ruth's son like a relic. ³The three of them rested quietly until hearing the sound of men threshing grain in a nearby room.

⁴One morning, faces an inch apart, Ruth petitioned, "Let us leave this place. We can return to Moab with Obed, and I will beg in the fields there."

⁵Naomi closed her eyes and thought of the famine, replied apologetically, "We will never know hunger here."

⁶Weeks later, Boaz discovered Ruth leaving his room in the dream hours. He discouraged her seven times with a whip. ⁷Before morning, Naomi took to dressing Ruth's wounds; her thin fingers eased the plowed skin with ointment. ⁸Ruth wept without moving. Naomi counted her eyelashes, kissed the corners of her mouth, brought her something to eat.