Brimstone

Me'Chele Sevanesian

We counted vertebrae
My back was thin enough
You named the black holes after my absence
They pointed at us and said
It was a shame a girl like me could love a man like you
But I know that the evil that lives in my jaw gnaws
So while yes,
You are evil
I am insidious.
When we found the home made of Brimstone
We knew it was made for us.
Spider webs freshly made and damp
The wood was inhabited by termites
The mightiest of parasites

The day was dark and mildew driven
The best type of days
When you made a proclamation
That a house can be dark
But a home must have light.
You said it was my job to keep the lantern burning
So I promised
I would never let it dim
It was my job to keep our light
So just like that I swore
I was more than a tunnel vision checkpoint.

Dead roses replaced with vibrant yellow daisies
New wood paneling
No spider webs on my window sills

You were trying to change me,
Screaming
"Stop changing, leave it be let it decay find the beauty in death in dark,
What if we run out of light,"

"You are beauty in darkness,
The bearer of brightness,
Of beauty,
I do not need decay
To close my eyes
I am not changing you,
I am showing you."

I had fallen asleep on the only broken thing left,
A tattered couch with one leg still intact
It smelled like years of laughter and looked as if it had been
Through the ringer,
It was the last thing that reminded me of myself

He took that from me too,
He didn't want to add memories to the ones already there.
He said this would create our own

"Keep the fire going,
It is getting dim,
I want more light"
But I am a woman of tunnel vision antics with no light at the end of It.
No need for warmth,
I can find the light and warmth in my self,
But I did not shine bright enough for him,
So I set the house on fire
Ripped the pages out of the books
Out of my journals

I set you a flame in the house we built from brimstone
And every day I sweep away the ashes
And I am glad I found the warmth from the lantern
That you gave me power over.