



2016

## Cult Leader

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### Recommended Citation

Nguyen, Diana Khoi. "Cult Leader." *The Iowa Review* 46.2 (2016): 80 Web.  
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.7741>

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## *Cult Leader*

The world without me  
is the space in this room.

I dress as a dog every morning  
as if shaking off a collision  
the whip in my mouth.

The light shines brightly—  
what new land is this?  
It is not I who inhabit the suit but the suit that inhabits others.  
I hide my real hound underground  
give her  
a man's name  
so I can hear her howling.  
Each day I become the dog I can abandon.  
Nothing can stop me.

A conduit for money  
I give alms eat cake  
which deprives others of bread.  
I throb from their touch  
surrendering for a moment to the kindness of a mask  
afraid of children afraid of their voices, too.

At night, I whisper to my hound  
I tell her:  
when you are born  
you ride off fall off  
or steal.