## At the End You Must Make a Choice Jesica Davis

CW: blood

A deck of tarot cards. News cycle of impending doom on mute. The self we project onto

other people's stories: it doesn't seem to matter what is true. A voice argues with archetypes:

> ~ there are only so many stories in this world ~ ~ there are so many stories in this world ~

Some days I've been touched enough for my whole life, other times my skin burns from being intangible.

The limits of belief approach an asymptote. A ghost is just a memory demanding attention. Come, sit,

have some tea and tell me what you dreamed this morning. Clasp fingers around the bits

> still within reach. I'll meet you

on that liminal strip between dirt and sea, you and me and everything tinted with symbolism if you squint

for hidden meaning ~ except it's screaming at you, hot pink, wide-eyed

the *readme.txt* file docked in installation directory ~

not a command but a beginning ~

Here: I made sandcakes, take a bite, grind the hourglass's broken shards between teeth until your gums run out of blood ~

can you describe the castle this intake creates in your belly, self-made, incarnate, evidence

in burped glass bubbles

~ oh the heartburn ~

How to forge who to become: as shadows grow long in cast

grab a belched, floating blown sphere, pass it to a friend who will use it to read your fortune  $\sim$ 

for this

it must be smashed ~

your future or your past.