

Tessa Thecharous

CATHOLIC SCHOOL GIRL

Green ink reminds me
of never sent
love letters in high school
lying in a canvas satchel next to day old bananas
and pencil shavings

the bag darkly smells of
cheap
Dutch
cigars
smoked hastily over Anaïs Nin novels
I really needed to be somebody exotic and

My catholic navy and white school girl's uniform
was always studded with paint stains
as though not the cheap shiny paper
but I were the canvas.