

# Ode to a Key

by Rebecca Clever

Aluminum          soiled steel          nickel-plated brass

double-sided metal mirror marked by fingerprints

square-faced pin-toothed violator of lubed locks & tumblers

Zeiss (or sometimes Cruciform)      Cross      Control and House  
Paracentric          Tubular          Skeleton and Master

bow, blade & biting trigger to a treasure chest

tingling dangler      hanger from a belt loop  
jingling one's arrival

tangling shaker in a group  
jockeying for a hole

jagged gouger  
on a ring

car door carver  
clutched  
within a scorned  
ex-lover's fist

bike binder  
to a meter  
ticking time away

ignition turner or  
torque twister  
opening a trunk

tightener  
of roller skates  
from a childhood  
lost

right  
of passage

through a  
hidden door

you'd  
since

forgotten