

WILD

Lately I've been thinking about the difference between *blooming* and *blossoming*
I've used them interchangeably my whole life, uncurious about their literal definitions

The internet tells me that blossom refers to the flowers of fruit-bearing plants
While bloom can be any ol' flower in the act of opening
Anything untethered to a source free of a branch's constraints revealing itself
Blossom a metaphor reserved for girls' bodies but what is a body in bloom?
It is a body unwilling to back down
A body too defiant to remain dormant

I love the bloom precisely because of its wildness
It thrives in every corner
Blooming on Market St.
Blooming on 3rd Ave.
Blooming on San Ysidro Blvd.
Blooming in Paradise Hills
A city blooming before our eyes
Blooming at quinceañeras at cookouts at the corner store at the swap meet at school at
misa

Blooming is the wild body unmarred by the limits of this world
Its petals temporary but you'd never know it