

## **some weird forest within**

her aspect's lost in  
some weird forest within  
where trees strain out  
as nerves, disguised cells  
that screech as flocking fingers  
burnt amber's hidden memories  
frail fossils in their burying  
sapped, they've lost their skin  
turned flint-hard as heart, or skeletal  
basic, as old wood can look like bone

clamps damp earth for dear life  
finds ivy mangled, precipitous  
that dangling, ponytail's sway  
caressing the night snow's profile  
blue. pale. swollen, and just  
someone's drowning cheeks  
which wind brings to peak, and sweeps  
banking at the gentle crest of lips  
burned up by lunar streaks

hips whose facets unfold  
a rolling plume, ashen, botanical  
curvature whose floral history  
learns there's no future perfect  
complications with reading comprehension  
in deciphering the river's calligraphy  
trickling, each ripple a tear to tickle  
like the surface tension stuttering  
speaking some strange language in the waves  
rising to ponder, in awe  
why their lovers can't walk on water

exhales a breath smells of hot stone, cramping  
like giving birth to a porcupine  
stumbles, startled over shards of night  
afraid they may splinter, or bark  
pricked off the skin of pinched lips  
dropped down to the floor  
emptied out of mouths  
where her dress fell down  
like a waterfall

or leaves.