

## AFTER THE TERIYAKI

After the teriyaki – the trampoline.  
Eleven is lean; ravenous.  
In the in-between time before sunset,  
before the onset of puberty,  
he becomes the Man-Boy;  
the defender of his Mother –  
Mother who is creative with her courage.

His father is irregularly absent.

The cat, Sky, curls its blackness  
into his heart.  
Nana is witness to it –  
to his suppleness with words,  
to his innocence tinged with dark.  
She is fearful of asymmetry.

Eleven is lean; ravenous:  
Fifteen has a talent for design.  
As an only sister, she becomes  
the storm's eye: his balance:  
his compass.

## ALLOWING IT TO LOOSEN

Not consciously, quickly  
releasing the hurt of it,  
but allowing it times  
for loosening in secret....  
That is the key.

For seventeen years,  
my namesake was a close friend.  
In the end, when she sliced me from her prime,  
I became too ungrounded for grief.

Now, as my strength rises,  
I strive less.  
Recurring dreams of the namesake  
remind me to wait, wait  
for my heart to unbind its hurt.

## **EAST**

**Early in February, the wind comes straight from Siberia –  
bearing on its giant spine a fine snow.**

**Easterly is broader than northerly: it may clasp you to death.  
Easterly is a bear: northerly is known for its  
lupine tooth.**

**In Latvia and Lithuania, the people rise up with the wind:  
thirty degrees of frost do not deter them.  
Outer cold and inner heat meet within the  
pains of a slow burning; an uncertain birth.**

**In the Middle East: war.  
On English television, speculation camouflages  
every insecurity.**

**The sun, the moon, take turns in a vaporous rising.  
Snow and frost remain, wintering the earth.**

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