

MICHELE BIRCH-CONERY

Goddess

The frozen self is a child, five  
years old, perhaps, with long

dark curls. How closely  
she complains along the length

of my body, the ache  
in the radial curve

of my right wrist, in the synovial  
membranes of my left hip and knee.

A small bird in my chest,  
she is the flutter that trips

my heart. Feathery  
light she rises. Harbinger

at my throat, she is the oracle  
of silence. She is the pulse

at my temples, a band  
pulled tight around my head.

Thin young crescent in the dark  
of heaven, perfect glowing

roundness, she is the shield  
advancing before me, my helmet  
of light.

*Michele Birch-Conery teaches English  
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