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## SHEREE-LEE OLSON

### Bone

I know the voice, she's called here before  
though the place is wrong, New Orleans  
not New York ("He threw me out")  
I tell her she'd need a helicopter  
to reach my sister, who is cooking  
somewhere in the bush—  
hasn't been here since last summer

when she came for the birth of my son  
"Oh," breathes Angela from New Orleans  
"a son!" Yes, I tell her, yes  
he is wonderful, he is almost a year  
Almost a year since my sister watched  
them sew me back together, layer after layer  
so they would do it right

the way she once watched  
them sew up Angela's daughter  
after someone beat her nearly dead and  
shoved his flesh into her teenage self  
But all the Queens doctors and all the Queens men  
couldn't put Lisa together again—  
"Almost a year!" shouts Angela from New Orleans

Afterwards I wonder if she still keeps  
the box my sister told me about  
whether right now somewhere in New Orleans  
she is lifting from its wrapping of silk  
her daughter's wrist bone  
to lay against her cheek as she weeps  
the way I am weeping now, into my son's hair

*Sheree-Lee Olson's poetry appears earlier in this volume.*