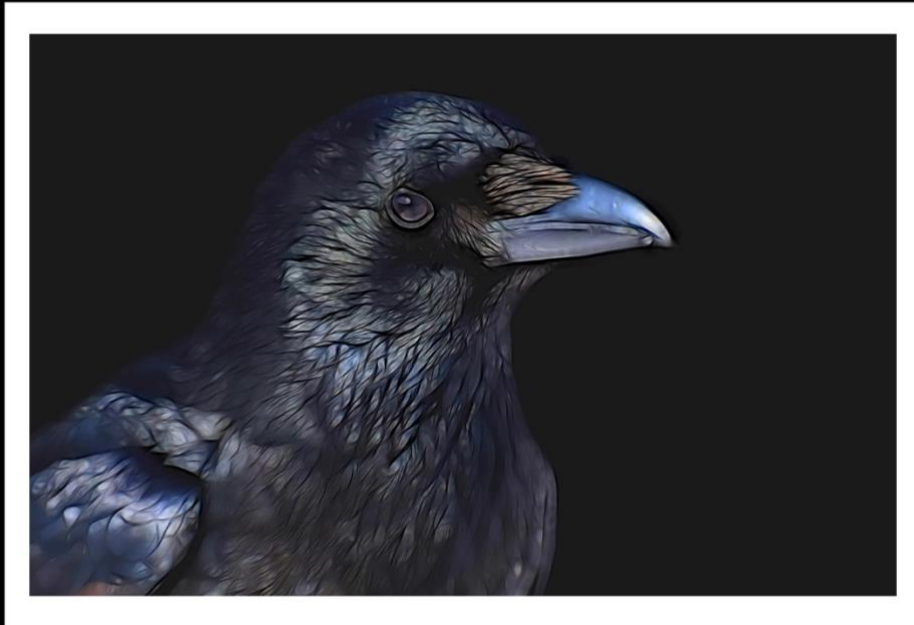


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Table of Contents

Alexandra Grunberg	
Coffin Lining	1
Ana Surguladze	
Untitled	2
Ariel K. Moniz	
Guillotine	3
Babitha Justin	
The Way Madmen Smell	4
Dominic Loise	
Gloria Has Questions	11
Emma Keanie	
Waking.....	16
Finn Cargill	
Arctic Cotton.....	17
Giovanni Mangiante	
Almost 25.....	18
James G. Piatt	
Just Wondering	19
Luisa Kay Reyes	
Baseball Banner	20
Maria Masington	
Matriarchy.....	24
Storm Windows	25
Melissa Gill	
Dead Doll Face	26

Micah Granada	
Family Portrait	27
Molly A. Green	
My Recovery's Beating Heart	31
R. Gerry Fabian	
Sound Judgement	33
Robin Knabel	
Washed Away	34
Sam McDonald	
Latte Art	35

Alexandra Grunberg

Coffin Lining

It is not much of a cradle,
but if you're already asleep
I don't know why you'd want to be
protected from the arms that hold you.
I don't know what comfort can be found
in words like "plasticized" and "lining."
You would look just as peaceful without.

But there's a comfort
in completing the puzzle
and ordering all the pieces.
Even if I can grasp the picture –
a green field, a blue sky, a dog –
to see a jagged hole to the wood
table beneath the swath of blue
is as intolerable as a restless death
as inconsequential, as monumental.

It's these objects you don't know about
that rock the living to rest.
Knowing someone else has all the pieces,
can fit the 3 to the 1, 2, [], 4,
makes the sky a little more blue.