

NINA PICK “In the Shadow of the Turning”

We wander the knot of the tightening circle,
the sand gathering in the sea-bed, and the land
struck dumb, struck mute, and all the
future-fires starting. I'm beginning
to see the holes beneath the goddess statues,
I'm beginning to see the mouth of the trapdoor
open, I'm reading the full moon the length
of my body, I'm reading the full moon down.
And eventually we turn to face it, once
we can't not face it any longer, the dark
blood canopy at the edge, when its agreement
with us for a moment wavers, which had been
to remain unseen, unseen in its whispering cloak.
Fog, marsh, shy animals in the wetland, rabid.
Sorry the only sober answer that comes forth,
comes to your lip like you bit it and
it cracked wide open, where it shines.

Nina Pick lives in Northern California, where she is an editor of the ecological/place-based literary journal *The Inverness Almanac*. Her first book, *At the Edge of the Dirac Sea*, is forthcoming from Kore Press. Her work has appeared in journals such as *Arion*, *Written River*, *Stone Canoe*, *Poetica*, *Dark Mountain*, and *ISLE*, online as part of the Tupelo Press 30/30 Project, and in various anthologies. She holds an MA in Comparative Literature from UC Berkeley, an MA in Counseling Psychology from Pacifica Graduate Institute, and BA with a concentration in Comparative Literature from NYU.