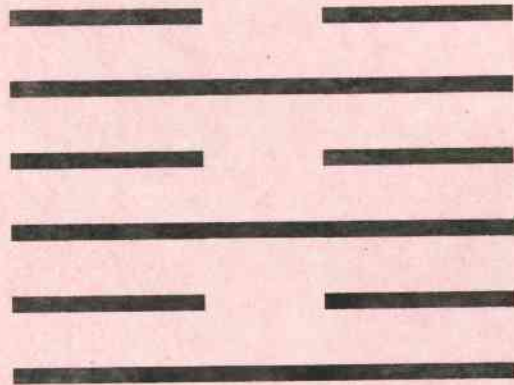


nothing left to say



Roberta Beary

Cover: Hexagram 63 Completion

The transition from confusion to order is completed, and everything is in its proper place. After a long and difficult period, it is finally time to rest and remain quiet.

The I Ching

dedicated to

*Nina and Nathan
the circle
is unbroken*

nothing left to say

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nothing left to say
an empty nest
fills with snow

breakup—
my daughter's voice cracks
across two continents

blackout—
my son speaks a secret
i always knew

blue moon
dad's phone message
unslurred

third blizzard—
the untuned piano's
middle c

snowed in
the dog clicks
from room to room

just after midnight
he corrects
her auld lang syne

talking divorce
he pours his coffee
then mine

last train
a can rolls the length
of the quiet car

so much silence
on a path
lit by fireflies

rivermoon
we run
out of words

quiet rain
. . . the deeper quiet
of uncut roses

piano practice
in the room above me
my father shouting

talk of war
the spin cycle's
steady hum

culling figs
mother and son
speaking again

snowbound
reading out loud
to an empty room

not hearing it
till the cat stirs
birdsong

hunger moon—
the words
i meant to say

flurries
telling her headstone
he cheated

winter dusk
when dad
would phone

blind date—
the jangle
of handcuffs

filling the concert hall the smoker's cough

rainy season
again he tells me
she means nothing

daylilies burst—
the crack
in mother's voice

slow-falling snow
his answering machine
again

mother's day
she tells me everyone
already called

the sound of the name
i used to have
soft-falling snow

piano practice
losing my place
to the roses

in and out
of the lovers' quarrel
fireflies

talking in bed
i forget his name . . .
second husband

his reasons—
after each one
the faucet drip

rambling phonecall
i count the drinks
in her voice

fireworks glow
in the eyes of the baby
held up to the sky

thunder
the roses shift
into shadow

in the seconds
after death
warm hands

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Previous Books by Roberta Beary

Fish in Love (coeditor) (Haiku Society of America, 2006)
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Dandelion Clocks (coeditor) (Haiku Society of America, 2008)

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