

For John K.

I want you to know
that you are not
just body, hollow bones
weathered skin, labored lungs

you are what is on the inside
of the soul
you are spirit matter
thick and sweet
palpable
divine as honey in sunshine
solid as a brick path under my journey
revealing its ruddy glitter
showing me
where to go

I want you to know
I will not let you be

just that body, just hollow
bones, labored lungs
eyes closed

look at you
now

you are my perseverance
my willingness to trust
my embrace of anger
my let go of fear

you are the memories you've made for me
from the stuff in the middle of you

you are my learning to be me
to be still
in the silence

you
are the opening prayer

Jen Jo Berry
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