

1983

## The Bath

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### THE BATH

The first time I saw mother naked,  
she combed her long hair,  
each brown strand a separate oak branch  
from which ravens flew.  
Violets grew in the shadow  
she cast on white tiles.

Steam spiraling from her body  
made clouds, thick in the air  
where I wanted to hide, to bury  
myself in whiteness,  
where no one could see me  
taste salt tears.

Maura Troester