Fight & Welcome to the Locked Unit

Faith Gómez

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Faith Gómez Clark (she/they) earned their MFA in Poetry from Warren Wilson. Their chapbook manuscript *Unlock the Body* was a semi-finalist in the *Iron Horse Literary Review* 2023 Chapbook Competition. She has received fellowships from Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and Vermont Studio Center. She has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Their work can be found or is forthcoming in *Salt Hill Journal, Rogue Agent Journal, Huizache Magazine*, and elsewhere.

**Fight**

Duck, duck, duck…
you chant your eight-year-old
frame a burden
you drag slowly
around the circle
of school children.
Duck, duck, duck…
I already know
it’s me you want.
The wind shouts
in my ear
as the match
of your hand strikes
the top of my head, Goose!
You think
because you’re bigger
you’re also faster.
You don’t know
that I outrun
my father.
You can’t see this anger
swelling like a fire
inside me.
This blacktop will be
the last thing you see
before you burn.
Welcome to the Locked Unit

He had already decided:
it is not safe
here. Stiff white coats saw
the Death fish skimming
the surface of his eyes,
gasping for air.
They rescued the fish
from drowning in the dark
waters of his body.
But didn’t they know
the Death fish belonged to him
the way grief belongs
to the widow?