A Refrain in Utero

Kathryn Merwin

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.butler.edu/booth

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://digitalcommons.butler.edu/booth/vol8/iss1/1
A Refrain in Utero

Abstract
You knew me first as a craving;
rose hip stew simmered brown
over peppered crayfish— I smelled life
on the windows, grandmother shifting stories
into steam, walls summer-slick
beneath peeling yellow paper.

Cover Page Footnote
"A Refrain in Utero" was originally published at Booth.

This article is available in Booth: http://digitalcommons.butler.edu/booth/vol8/iss1/1
You knew me first as a craving;  
rose hip stew simmered brown  
over peppered crayfish– I smelled life  
on the windows, grandmother shifting stories  
into steam, walls summer-slick  
beneath peeling yellow paper.

I whispered in your cold-  
pressted ear, your stethoscope, I warbled you  
a litany. I kicked you  
in the rib over the julbord, holly grove and caged  
bird: you felt my roots spread. Felt the tide  
rise in your stomach.

We met at the solstice, over lingonberries  
and sweet golden Pommac. I split your body,  
two hemispheres of home, one little moon  
tethered to a planet. I know  
what your heart sounds like  
from the inside.
Kathryn Merwin is a native of Washington, D.C. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in the minnesota review, Permafrost Magazine, Folio, apt, Notre Dame Review, and Jabberwocky Review, among others. In 2015, she was awarded the Nancy D. Hargrove Editors’ Prize for Poetry and nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She currently serves as Co-Editor-in-Chief of Milk Journal and Managing Editor of The Scarab.