
POETRY | SPRING 2021

Overnight Aubade

By Cole W. Williams

—cold feet—interior aglow with overlapping light
the sun compounded upon lamps lit
—once you were steadfast in carrying me to restless, rolling
sleep, last night I wrapped myself in wool, sweat
woke me, you're not here yet I imagine you restless too,
alarmed and running, did you *save* anyone I will ask, did you lose
anyone, you will return long after my dreams leave, shaken
off like powdery snow, I won't remember fitful fragments
of faint sleep but you will carry requiems as the ferryman.
When you return, I point to the center of your chest
and ask, has it been left on you, the death?

Cole W. Williams is the author of *Hear the River Dammed: Poems from the Edge of the Mississippi* (Beaver's Pond Press, 2017) as well as several books for children. Her poems have appeared in *Martin Lake Journal*, *Indolent Books* online, *Waxing & Waning*, *Harpy Hybrid Review*, *WINK* and other journals and anthologies. Williams is a student in the MFA program at Augsburg University in Minneapolis. Find out more about her work at colewilliams.com

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