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The Mikvah

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Ray: The Mikvah

THE MIKVAH

Jennie Ray

Bay window: a window blighted by motivated itch
when one is not yet born—and a window
which allows for the *main entry:* need
 part of speech: noun
 definition: want.

I, myself, am my mother,
brought forth, a bawling hen fruit,
from my own chock-a-block belly.

Now I have all of this unretouched sand
that used to be a window—enough sand
to fill a garage, close the door, bring in the barn
fan, and manufacture dunes as carnival prizes.

Of course, I opt to satiate a glutton pool,
plug all of its filters, and become that British duck,
except he uses money.

Apple-polish, now, my profoundly female
body—

Parts not useful for B e g u i l m e n t.

Carry my large mirror up the five stairs,
saunter to the dive board's edge,
hold mirror to face in the daylight.

This is my bath. This is my beat
to understand, to care about.

Sand single-files into my mouth like the purple tobacco
always in my dream. Sand keeps me sealed up for me,
embalms Dargerian world.

The thought of what you wasted!

I'd laugh if I were not sedimentary,
arms in the direction of a blast,
as just an ordinary woman.

Look around at this woman-created beach! Some ordinary.