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Self-Portrait from the Avian Answer-Key to Test Questions

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Taaca: Self-Portrait from the Avian Answer-Key to Test Questions

SELF-PORTRAIT FROM THE AVIAN ANSWER-KEY TO TEST QUESTIONS

Tricia Taaca

1.) To estimate the probability of drowning:

I pruned in a bathtub, listening
to your mixtape until drained
batteries pulled corners

of heavy metal songs down
into dirges. In the window,
starlings skeined

the sky, unraveled a black-beaded net
to haul up another
weary dawn.

2.) For the short essay on longing,

I will try to hatch
an egg in my mouth.

3.) If breath is a plea

for fire

and between us, pitchforked
rhythm loads hay bales for pyre,

then love is the barn owl
that cannot smell _____.