

I loved by CJ Heller

(from *Summer '17*)

A hermit
crab, scampering
into its haven,
buffets onward with the tide.
I walk from the disappearing sandbar
while my children
dance and shiver under the cloud-covered sun,
splashing the Atlantic
like a blanket
tossed back and forth
from one to the other,
and a single sail carves the ocean.
I forever wonder at the miracle of this moment.

I loved
you when the molecules
now in you
were still flying from the stars.

I dreamed
of your existence before I knew you.

My body
shaped itself to hold you,
to feed you,
before you could blink your eyes,
or breathe,
or weep.

My love for you
informed my understanding
of the infinite.

You grew
before me:

A baby
A child
An adult
Before me
Above me
Away from me.
You pushed against me,
and I loved you.

I knew you
from the stars
and loved you,
knowing already what would be
the natural course of our trajectories:
To intersect briefly here together
before momentum hurtled you onward
to other constellations.

Time poured
from you as a waterfall,
and I could only hold
a teaspoon to the torrents
and catch a glimpse
of these moments with you
as the sun lit the resulting spray.

I will be
your memory,
and you will fly on.
As my love
perpetuates your travels,
it, too, sustains me:
I blink at the cloud-filled sky,
and know you are already beyond this rain that falls
away from you,
towards me.

I am filled
with lingering dreams
and memories
of knowing you,
of knowing love.