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revealing all your dirty little secrets

pn in the

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SCRUTINY

ROCHELLE HOPE MEHR

It is the definition of self. The defining moment When you screech the chalk against the blackboard. Everyone cringes And the chalk breaks.

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They give you the treacle About being a good sport. Blending in. Not going against the grain. Staying within the lines.

You get up slowly After retrieving the pieces. Everyone's gone. You face the blackboard And eye what you've done.



ROCHELLE HOPE MEHR

I know my limitations. I come here to lay stones.

The bare trees barely notice As I set down my load and turn their way.

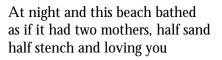
Away from their green plumed neighbors. Away from the fleshed out.

Hunched and sodden I progress, My pail heavy with the weight of infinite possibility. Inside this sling the kitchen table half hooves, half wings and mountainside though the doctor says it's how stone helps my rest and flowers slipping off the rocky edges

--it's not the time! you don't yodel not in the same room, not with the window open as if words mean nothing now

and still some mountain wail grabbing those god-awful branches

the way this tablecloth is carried up and around just one arm the neighbors even here think you're crazy, your throat joyous for no reason at all.



till your still soft heart and the sun survives by hiding, seeps from the surface

and the devouring light --in the dark you will learn to splash sooner than the others

get the jump, each shoulder rinsed, taught to cool and this great ocean from inside.

two pieces by Simon Perchik

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