

Title: Back Brace

Author(s): Tara Propper

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Tara Propper



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Back Brace

The huddled vertebrae bracket themselves,
warding incursion, knotting the spine,
and I am slender supine
in my bone-colored
brace, skin-seams callousing, form colluding
against shape.

The back aches for the exactitude
of even shoulders and legs—a reclamation
of balance. The genius of 90 degrees
flush flat against a chair's back—against the squeeze
of constraint.
Like a saint, I am beyond bodily.

I have transubstantiated
from C-curve to X-Axis
from mass to matter
from filament to fiber
and there is no purity, only exoneration,
only enamel-laden reformation.

Biography

Tara Propper has earned her MFA in Creative Writing and PhD in English. Her chapbook, *This body was never made*, is under contract with Finishing Line Press. She is currently an Assistant Professor of English in the Department of Literature and Languages at the University of Texas at Tyler.