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(uh roi oh)

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(uh roi oh)

By Zoë Bulick

I.

Hold my hand,
breathe out the polar bear.
I am standing on the rock and you—
float up to the moon,
a rocket's hip away.

II.

I whisper at the small frogs,
whimpering cubs dig sharp teeth
into raw tendons.
Meet me in the air above
the rocks,
the hips.
Look over the cliff and see the zebra leap.
Crushing the striped body
upon landing.

III.

Trace the arch of my foot with yours.
Wade in the water up to your shoulders.
Hide the ink that marks your body.
Smear it with wet palms
and thick fingers.
Striped inked skin turns the beast.
Black drops turn to spots.
Cheetahs leap across clavicles and chasms,
water melding protoplasm.

IV.

When you don't touch me I can feel the weight of your body.
arroyo
You hold my wrist, place my hand over your eyes.

Blocking out the dark misshapes of ostriches
flying across the borealis.

The polar bear recedes into my lungs.