

# CutBank

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**Kin--**

Kathleen Madrid

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KATHLEEN MADRID

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KIN-

- Winner: Patricia Goedicke Prize in Poetry -

*Skin*

and the liver are  
our largest organs.

than vodka.  
I am poured  
from my people's lives,  
a ripe skinned hide  
and show of every weather.  
Pith and rind both occupied  
by pride and collared in a red-  
throated shame; I have said  
*what makes blood*

*thicker than water?*

One's a map of things—  
of tanning beds and nicotine  
—one makes blood thicker

Ink

in water,  
stained glasses.

So much pigments what I see.  
Bruise green shame—that shiner.

Mistakes tattooed kidney deep  
bile.

Swindle

means cheat; to be a charlatan.

Back then  
with florid nose, in Roman tones,  
as Grand Panjandrum he tread the boards  
then quit. And split for Denver.

Fraud is just a fancy word for liar.

Skein

means a flight of wildfowl.

Or a tangle, a confusion.

Both, that's what I think.

She loves me to distraction, and drinks,

and rescues pigeons.

Lipsticks

in every red on cigarette butts.  
yellowed teeth.  
my cheek.  
Care so bottomless I learned  
that's just the way the world

ticks

Spent

jackoak, mangrove root—  
leftover trash from the tanning  
vats—keeps weeds down in pig  
thistle, puncturevine

Venom runs its course.  
Bloodlines die out.

even salt and gall are unpoisoned  
in the end.

Entrails

A haruspex  
wasn't necessary  
to tell that fortune

but we all got gutted anyhow.

Trailer

baggage, gaps,  
    , ashtrays,  
(this lungful  
    breath),  
    , addiction,  
kid knees,  
skin, liver,  
pigeon feathers,  
weather/ or not

and every day,  
and always,  
and still,  
and moonshine,  
and every other  
word, I know

from love.

*Kind*

like winter. And time.  
Pine branches free of  
leaves. Everyone who

didn't.