

*Em Strang***Snow**

Beloved, the snow is swirling and I am
a single flake, falling. Each flake
alongside me sings as it falls
and I too am singing. The whole field
is resplendent with song.

I look for you here, but there is no looking.

My eyes feel you instead, in the deep
roots beneath rock and grass,
where I have melted into us.

What need is there for courage now?

Us

Here in this deep pool

inside the old silver river

a single fish leaps

in the moonlight,

like a lover calling

her Beloved.

All around the stars

are still and the water

is loose to her shape,

lapping, easeful,

or the river is a dream

of the eternal

longing to be whole,

a single multiverse,

caught between the banks

of one reality and the next,

calling and leaping

up

Em Strang is a poet, novelist and founding director of Scottish charity, Three Streams, offering workshops and retreats in Creativity, Contemplation & Action. Her writing preoccupations are with nature, spirituality and the relationship between the human and nonhuman. Em's first full collection, *Bird-Woman*, was published by Shearsman in October 2016, was shortlisted for the Seamus Heaney Best First Collection Prize and won the 2017 Saltire Poetry Book of the Year Award. Her second collection, *Horse-Man*, was published in September 2019. Her first novel, *Quinn*, was shortlisted for the 2019 Fitzcarraldo Editions Novel Prize.