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shorelines

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shorelines

a boy wakes from a dream
of drowning
his skin is blue
he is coughing up water
and jellyfish
his mother throws her arms around him
holds his head above the waves
their tears are saltwater pools

a man dreams himself awake after a lifetime of bleeding he pulls a fishhook from his chest laughs for the first time he can remember starfish fall from his mouth into a black sea

a spirit shivers into being takes the form of a baby boy swims from his mother's embrace into the belly of a whale gulping air he swallows starlight until he becomes everything he clenches a grain of sand in his fist

an old man plunges into sleep his eyes are pearls set in abalone he breathes sandcastles and lightning wrestles misheu-pisheu to floor his wife waves from the shore builds an inukshuk with her bones and exhales a stone labryinth

he has found his way home

kateri akiwenzie-damm