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Birthmark

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BIRTHMARK

Rachel Lefebre

This finger traces the imperfect pigment
on the inside of this leg
and this body is not the snake
slipping away from its skin.

You will mistake this birthmark
for a burn,
for an oil spill in an ocean, but

this body is not all survivor.
Do not bother with the bruises and the breaks,
this body holds on to those like baby teeth.

Most of this body is not torn
and this spot on the leg,
that looks like a bad memory, bad choice,
is a painless bright mark
and that is all this body tries to be in this world.