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## Forgiveness

Jacqueline Eis

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## **FORGIVENESS**

A poetess writes me after surgery  
That now she must indulge her body,  
Nourish it, scold it, and even punish it  
As she has never had the appetite to do.  
In learning to love her body like an idea  
She has begun to notice the feverish hugeness  
Of oaks and the scarlet wounds of hedges.  
She plods now and will soon jog, in  
Loping penance, past the cloistered convent.  
The idea of the nuns' silent presence – their anonymous  
Prayer – signals healing, and promises her  
A welcome, earthly separation from the body,  
The separation before death, when she will  
Once again float rapturous in her poems.

*by Jacqueline Eis*

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