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Two Poems

Samantha Bares

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TWO POEMS

Samantha Bares

Starved for

Endless discover me grueling like learning the stars by feel. Dirigible spheres. A storied audit down to the aether. The thing to do is gaze to the lode of me—supposing ore—then, starved for frame, the reaches of us. Beyond the water cycle, I fog the peeks of foil. I'm not angry. Still they hold heat, they bright, they torn lacunose in a wholecloth umbra. Don't say time, say blinks don't say blessed, say lucky. The negative space always appears so soft.

Her

That's her. Can't recall blank no-smile no-yell no-body and not a soul watching. Before endless Xanadu reflections, diffuse in a stubborn pantry. So can it be she is also everything that has found a home in the glossy surface of her. Because then what is motility. Then what then what notion's solid. In perpetuity: there's a girl that is [redacted], a longer-than-possible sentence that's the girl, a cold slice of hungry that's the sentence, a soft-serve dish that's the hunger, a joke that's the soft-serve, a tantrum that's the joke which is a star with nowhere else to look and a planet that has no light of its own saying That's her.

A Cajun Louisiana native, SAMANTHA BARES is a graduate of the Helen Zell Writers' Program, where she won the Frederick Busch Prize in Fiction, and a former Zell Postgraduate Fellow. Her poetry has most recently appeared in *Epigraph Magazine*. Her fiction, published under the name Mant Bares, is forthcoming in the *Beloit Fiction Journal*. Samantha is working on a novel-length swamp opera, which Key West Literary Seminar selected as finalist for the 2020 Marianne Russo Emerging Writer Award.