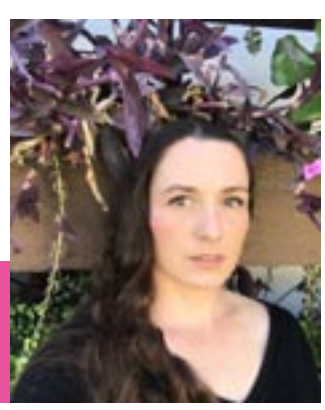
How the Affair with a Part of an Unknown Woman Began

Severed human flesh held to the light of a front window
glows.
The fine hairs of a woman's stomach flashes as a touchable
flame.
In my hands, bright as parchment, the story I long to
read.
Flesh dried to immovable permanence, yet
the umbilicus
twisting into itself. I wish she'd
pull me in too.
At center a single
zero.

Nicelle Davis



Nicelle Davis is a California poet, collaborator, and performance artist who walks the desert with her son J.J. in search of owl pellets and rattlesnake skins. Her poetry collections include The Walled Wife (Red Hen Press, 2016), In the Circus of You (Rose Metal Press, 2015), Becoming Judas (Red Hen Press, 2013), and Circe (Lowbrow Press, 2011). Her poetry film collaborations with Cheryl Gross have been shown across the world.

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