Cloud Gods

cloud gods got together this morning
coated lapis on ceramic skies
swooshed cotton contrail on distant hills
and disappeared the streak in pines

got sun to slant on hopscotch puddles
holding fast to concrete cracks
mirrors shimmying my steps
sun coaxed from hiding just for me

who stationed birds on this burly arc of oak
this arm that bends close to my path
who posted birds on this fountain by the fence
bubbling invitations to swoop and bathe

who sprayed all these picket fences white
fixed gates and put geraniums by new posts
got garnet blooms to tap me as I pass
recalling I'm the widow down the street

rain and record colds have prisoned me
with books, keyboards, calendars, clocks
but cloud gods popped genie lamps today
to make this magical world my gift

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Thelma T. Reyna

Thelma T. Reyna's books have collectively won 14 national literary awards. She has written six books: a short story collection, *The Heavens Weep for Us and Other Stories;* two poetry chapbooks—*Breath & Bone* and *Hearts in Common;* and three full-length poetry collections—*Rising, Falling, All of Us; Reading Tea Leaves After Trump,* which won six national book honors in 2018; and *Dearest Papa: A Memoir in Poems,* (Golden Foothills Press, 2020). As Poet Laureate in Altadena, 2014-2016, she edited the *Altadena Poetry Review Anthology* in 2015 and 2016. Thelma's fiction, poetry, and nonfiction have appeared in literary journals, anthologies, textbooks, blogs, and regional media for over 25 years. She was a Pushcart Prize Nominee in Poetry in 2017. She received her Ph.D. from UCLA.