SLIPSTREAM

The sand in my sheet is evidence

of the beached whale you were in another life. At night

I heard you sing humpback in your sleep as I

tried to crush myself under your fins.

Because my larynx was unable

to produce baleen sounds

you'd understand, I kissed

with my eyelashes, thumbed the backs of your knees

with bubblegum oil until your land snore returned.

Frequency was vital; the signs

on the seabed said DEAD END in yellow

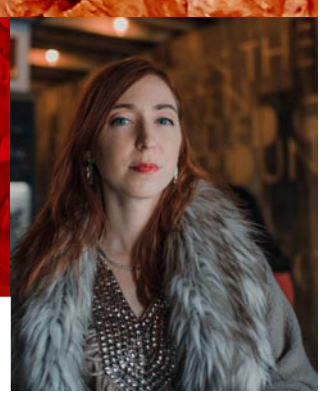
metal diamonds, and all we had

was your song, my lips, and an echo

to channel us home.

Born in a blizzard in NY, Bernadette McComish is an educator and fortuneteller. She earned an M.F.A. from Sarah Lawrence and an M.A. in TESOL from Hunter College. Her poems have appeared in The Los Angeles Press, The Cortland Review, Slipstream, Flypaper Magazine, Waxing and Waning, Peregrine, and Rising Phoenix. She won the 2022 Kali Moksha prize for poetry, and she was a finalist for the New Millennium Writers 41st poetry prize. Her chapbook— The Book of Johns was published in 2018 by Dancing Girls Press, and her second chapbook was published by Lily Poetry Review in September 2021. Her latest collection: Prophets of Los Angeles is now available from the Los Angeles Press. She teaches High School in LA, and performs poetry, and produces shows with The Poetry Society of New York making poetry accessible to everyone.

Cobalt Poets Series # 629 ~ August 27, 2024



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