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## A Birth Mother Wears a Costume Her Daughter Will Never Fit In

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Lynne Thompson

**A BIRTH MOTHER WEARS A COSTUME  
HER DAUGHTER WILL NEVER FIT IN**

Some thought the mother said *taproot*  
Some thought that woman said *resigned*

but her daughter mouthed *immaculately conceived*

Some thought the mother said *perdition*  
Some thought she said *hocus pocus*

while her daughter wrote parables   wrote charms

Some hoped the daughter would say *yes, honey*  
(although they suspected the daughter said *wishbone*—

knew she would deny everything, slipping into, out of)

Some never understood the daughter's need  
to be alone, her fear of sorcery—they only knew

her as braid of ginger & sea salt  
as weightless darling & origami

Some have heard her bark & bark & bark  
Some have heard her arrange a resistance