

ASH BOWEN

Falconry

Each morning, my father ties me to the tether
of the horizon and I kill a sky

of young starlings. With every pass, I tug
harder at the heavens, attempt

to slip this harness and have for myself
these sparrows I've tucked inside my talons.

When I descend, he hides my vision behind
a blackout hood and I dream of aviaries

that tremble at my arrival. Some days I wonder
if my hunger will unsteady my affection

and I'll confuse him with my quarry—
a hundred feet above and my shadow

tossing crosses on him like a blessing
or premonition.



ABOUT ASH BOWEN

Ash Bowen received a PhD in English from the University of North Texas and is the author of *The Even Years of Marriage* (Dream Horse Press 2013). His work has been published in *Blackbird*, *Baltimore Review*, *New England Review*, *Rattle*, and elsewhere.

