

LESLEY DAME

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Working Through a Darkness

Try not to think about it,  
the murkiness that grasps and binds.

Why waste your time gripping  
slippery gummy things? Why the coldness,

the search for an opening, for starlight? The universe  
is mostly dark—we are smaller than this cave. This cave

doesn't feel our hands, hear our footfall.  
The blind, white-irised creatures are silent.

In the middle passage, you stumble and rise  
like a songbird, only to bash your pale wings

against the craggy rock.



## ABOUT LESLEY DAME

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Lesley Dame is co-founder of and poetry and nonfiction editor for damselfly press. She is author of the poetry chapbook *Letting Out the Ghosts*, and her poems have also appeared in many online and print journals. Dame happily lives, writes, and edits in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. For more information, visit her website at [lesleydame.wix.com/poet](http://lesleydame.wix.com/poet).

