

BRIANNA J. PIKE

A Trip to the Indiana State Museum

Our journey begins as the world breaks—
soil, sand, and stone, universal afterbirth
etched across granite, marble, limestone, shale.
You place your chin in the space where my neck meets
shoulder, a curve of the earth, and your breath
silt that holds mountains together.

Standing amidst the looming exhibits,
fiberglass echoing earth's age, I wonder
about permanence, how easily continents
shift, reshaping the landscape with each rift.

Encountering fossils, crystals, and trilobites,
we move together, navigating the earth as if we
took part in its creation. Entering a darkened room,
stars spreading a spiral blanket over our heads,
I pause to look up but you move on, out into the light.

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ABOUT BRIANNA J. PIKE

Brianna J. Pike lives in Indianapolis, Indiana, where she is an associate professor at Ivy Tech Community College. Her poems have appeared in *Mojave River Review*, *Rust+Moth*, *New Plains Review*, *The Meadow*, and *Hamilton Stone Review*. She blogs at briannajaepike.wordpress.com.

