

JENNIFER MARTELLI

Possum Haibun

Moon creature, she waddled past my clay pots
of sleeping English lavender, Genovese basil,

black peppermint and lemon balm. Sweet
thing not of this earth, long-tailed haibun:

I, too, don't sleep through. I prayed
for relief, I prayed my dark thoughts

desiccate: tiny seeds floating out
through my ribcage. But I'm an atheist and

this is what I got: pearl-glow, warm-
blooded nighttime carrier with an anvil

in her inner ear. She traveled across
my tiny backyard, through the white

light of my television bleeding through
the French panes. She lactates deep blue

milk, lets her babies / cling to her opalescent
pelt warm and lunar.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jennifer Martelli is the author of *After Bird* (Grey Book Press 2017) and *My Tarantella* (Bordighera Press 2018). Her poems have appeared in the *Aeolian Harp Series*, *Superstition Review*, *Tinderbox Poetry Journal*, *Glass*, and *The Bitter Oleander*. She is the poetry editor for *Mom Egg Review* and a book reviewer for *Solstice Literary Magazine* and *Up the Staircase Quarterly*. She lives in Marblehead, Massachusetts.

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