

Intercessory Letter

by Ashley Crout

Dear God of the Everywhere,

There is too much of you
to fit within my eyes.

You are the horizon at night.
You descend your many bodies
invisibly into the world –
rescuer, intrusion.

You must understand.
I love two lives the most.
Their breath shells shallow
as they age, light bleeds through.
They are glowing. They glow.

Please deeply bless my mother
as she sleeps, her thin lids latched,
and wake her. She is my awake.

Please deeply bless my messy hound
as he circles, lowers into his rest.
His unconscious paws paddle the air.

Every dream is a dream of running.

I beg that you lift him to me again.
Let him arise until he is risen.

My beloveds are decades old. Their skin
sinks – a glacier sliding, a tired hill.
Protect them from the ground
that would gather them. Protect them

even from the sensation of falling
away from the living world.
Convince them of a heaven, a glad god.

Wait. I am unconvinced.

New letter:

Dear God of All Souls,
God of Dominance,

Protect them from you.

Reclaim them
and I will be your betrayer.

Dear Devil,
Dear Opposite God,

Protect my mother, my dog. Help me
hide them from the everywhere.
I will surrender myself to keep them safe.

I will say their names, the names
of their bodies. I will hide them
in my mouth and hold it closed.

I will stay silent all my life.