

Catherine Arra

Thanksgiving Eve

-for Marilyn, Harriet, Katherine, Mary, Agata, Anna

Tonight I summon the women
of my genesis: Mother, Grandmothers,
Great-Grandmothers to gather around me
and gather me into them, penetrate my flesh
with ghost fingers, make of me a blue chrysalis
spin me in dust.

Let this dread of November and the end it augurs
seat us around my table.
Let us knead bread and eat, telling stories—
women's stories.

Mothers mine, needle-eye the thread of my life
into yours and feed me the loss
that becomes grace.

Catherine Arra is the author of *Slamming & Splitting* (Red Ochre Press, 2014), *Loving from the Backbone* (Flutter Press, 2015) and *Tales of Intrigue & Plumage* (FutureCycle Press, 2017). Recent work appears in *Switched-on Gutenberg*, *Mocking Heart Review*, *Nixes Mate Review*, and *Blue Fifth Review: Blue Five Notebook Series*. A former English and writing teacher, Arra now teaches part-time and facilitates a local writers group in upstate New York. Find her at www.catherinearra.com