

## **Clyde Kessler**

### **OUR PLACE OF BIRTH**

You grind a dragon claw for supper.  
It sparks tomatoes like a gravestone  
anchored with seeds. It hooks the song  
of a cricket, and lifts it from the floor  
and plops it into our soup bowls to sing.

I pretend we have married these sparks,  
these thin, red filings magnetized with walls  
made from baby dragon ribs. They flutter  
like burnt jackets shrinking down into fireflies.  
They wink like children reaching for bread.

**Clyde Kessler** lives in Radford, VA with his wife Kendall and their son Alan. Several years ago, they added an art studio to their house and named it Towhee Hill. In 2017, Cedar Creek published his book of poems *Fiddling At Midnight's Farmhouse*, which Kendall illustrated.