

Laura Foley

Eagle

I'm not looking for it,
this treacherous day of sleet,
eyes on my driving until,
exploding over my windshield—
gold talons, white head, a being
I haven't asked for,
the winged Cadillac of raptors,
king of birds and Grim Reaper
of fish, raccoons and rabbits,
rouses me to the sublime,
on this ordinary gray day—
my Dad's youngest sister,
the only one now
who remembers the war,
my father's capture by the Japanese—
teeters on the edge
of the great divide,
Aunt Peg will soon re-join her brother,
sister, parents, husband,
and I, awakened by this godly bird
swooping almost into me—
the spread of its black-winged feathers,
for a moment as clear as death,
before it ascends to heavens,
just beyond my sight.

Laura Foley's books are *Why I Never Finished My Dissertation*, *WTF*, *Night Ringing*, *Joy Street*, *The Glass Tree*, *Mapping the Fourth Dimension*, and *Syringa*. Her work has won the Common Good Books poetry contest, the Joe Gouveia Outermost Poetry Contest, The Atlanta Review Grand Prize, Foreword Review Poetry Prize and others. Her poems have appeared widely in journals and magazines including *Valparaiso Poetry Review*, *DMQ*, *Room Magazine*, *McClellan Poetry Prize Website*, *Pittsburgh Poetry Review*, *Bellevue Literary Review*, in the anthologies, *Aesthetica Creative Writing*, *In the Arms of Words: Poems for Disaster Relief*, *Ice Cream Poems*, *Roads Taken: Contemporary Vermont Poets*, *Not My President*, *an anthology of Dissent*, and many others.