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Poetry by Athena Kildegaard



Once, before dusk, we all went down
to the river and then up again to leapfrog

down to the river, only my mother couldn't
leap so she crawled over us, belly to back like frogs

in spring. Water risen and clouds lost to the west,
a chorus bubbles up, a pimply persistence, a frog

Ode to Frog

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cantata heralding increase. Hurry to find a mate!
Soon enough, herons and egrets will come for frog

heart and golden-eyed minnow and a mate in the reeds.
How much there is to sing of, breathless as frog

at noon, a song echoing desire, our pent-up viral
longing for something more than monitor, a frog-

leap into the world, a breath our lungs pull into a deep
embrace, round and translucent as egg of frog.

Art Information

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Athena Kildegaard is the author of six books of poetry: *Prairie Midden* (forthcoming), *Course*, and *Ventriloquy*, all from Tinderbox Editions, and *Rare Momentum* (Red Dragonfly Press, 2006), *Bodies of Light* (Red Dragonfly Press, 2011), which was a Minnesota Book Award finalist, and *Cloves & Honey* (Nodin Press, 2012). She also co-edited, with Margaret Hasse, the anthology *Rocked by the Waters: Poems of Motherhood*. She lives in Morris, Minnesota.

For more information, visit [Athena Kildegaard's website](#) [6].

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