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My Father's Birds

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“My Father’s Birds”

My father sends birds--
signs of his safe arrival
in a distant world--
feathered vows of reunion,
when and how to be revealed.

Sea gull, owl, crow--
wait with me on train platforms,
watch me through windows,
call to me from rooftops--
my father smiling through them.

Raven, dove, sparrow--
Promises my father made--
messengers of hope.
These are the birds my father sends.
These are the birds from the dead.

-Kristine Doll