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Goodnight, Goodbye

You catch the wild goose;
it fills your arms with feathers
and hissing. You tend to family ghosts,
feeding them your lantern-breath.

Vermin flee under foot.
A snake-filled stairwell seethes.
Strange women devour me.
You worry your fingers red and raw.

*

The sea swallows you.
Same dream you've had
since childhood. The dream
that ultimately came true.

I would pulverize your bones.
I would rave beside your ghost.

I would walk into that sea
without swimming.

Derek JG Williams

Derek JG Williams puts words into rows both long and short. He's an MFA candidate and a graduate teaching assistant at UMass Boston. His poems are published or forthcoming in *Prairie Schooner*, *New Ohio Review*, *Salamander*, the *Cortland Review*, *Redivider*, and *Best New Poets 2013*, among others. Learn more at derekjgwilliams.com.