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Tundra Swans

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Tundra Swans

December, near solstice, hundreds arrive
in the not-quite-frozen bay—white bodies
descending from the gray sky to drift
and entwine necks, tip tails-up to feed—
we go home to a cold that drops us
into polar vortex night bringing questions
for our books—tundra/whistling trumpeter,
or mute?—comparing bills and calls and shapes—
almost forgetting the fragility of life on ice,
planetary flight, the bonds of family and flock,
the return of light that fills their wings.

Robin Chapman

ROBIN CHAPMAN is the author of nine poetry books, most recently *Six True Things* (Tebot Bach, 2016). She is recipient of *Appalachia's* 2010 Poetry Prize. Her poems have appeared recently in *Flyway*, *Poetry East*, and *Terrain*, among other journals.