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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*

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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.