

How to wear your animal totem

The clairvoyant took back
the night. The clairvoyant

took back the ocean. First
she would make visible the effect

of rain, petted and moaning
by the door. A carnival mirror

or a signifying worm, the sound
of downpour fallen over in the water.

Cards shuffling under a window
serving as a reflection. The clairvoyant

recited the plagues and the plagues
were her. The plagues: Ten drops

of wine of blood of frogs and lice
and famine—not a plague

but the effect of a plague. The dead children
the ship's engine didn't sound like.

Darkness, flies and locusts, hail
and boils. The first-born nation.

Not clairvoyance but the effect of
clairvoyance. The clairvoyant playing

solitaire while the ship lullabied
the water. In the hull of a boat

in an ocean she hides in is the ocean.
She draws the queen, the dragon,

the diamond of season stretching
the ocean as the plagues stretch wine

into blood. The hull into a ship only
moving one direction. Whitecaps

slicking the sea. Not the future,
but the effect of a future.