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## Fair Warning

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# Fair Warning

*Nobody before me, nobody after me,  
writing it.*

*~Ikkyu.*

I have twisted Anna into something soundless,  
remade you in my own iconography. Currently

you are a wildfire with hair in rare areas, absurd  
tremblings, the once-hunted; I undid the other,

having confirmed her a peacock with dull plumes,  
pacing a sexless cage. You will learn.

With familiar women there is a certain speech—  
*Nobody before me, nobody after me*

Rewriting it: I tease you in your misshapen moods,  
more womanish than my straight back and slack tongue.

Speaking without sympathy, you let yourself be  
left alone, stroking your stalk with impatience.

Get up. Blame no one. But know, if only  
for a moment, you were the light on the mirror,

the stiff arch to smaller, brighter shores. You  
dissolve, I sweep my hands of your siftings.

The rest, as they say, is the jotting of the conqueror.

*By Emily Kay Carson*