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## pine cones

Adrienne Reaves

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how can I cut, possibly maim or even kill,  
that which is an expression of myself?  
every word, every scale in its repulsive hide;  
every drop of the sucking mire,  
every organ in the patient in danger of death ( oh god it's my CHILD ),  
is  
suspect.

so I pray to whatever gods may listen,  
and cut.

*Rich Miller*  
RC '93

**Candidate for The Margaret Haley Carpenter Prize for Poetry**

