

# The Messenger

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## Other

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## Other

*Bridget Bodley*

they anointed me with oil,  
christened me *Other*

*Mama,*  
lay me in the basin

come hell,  
come highwater

wrap my ankles, leathered hands  
release me, salt stained eyes

*Rio grande, my river styx*  
take me as your tributary

i'll lay my armor down  
will your waters wash me white?

swear, you'll weaken me  
cloak me in clay

cut off my tongue,  
paint my face - *pale and pretty*.

my whole skin  
my whole self -  
    *make me all Achilles heel.*

til I am nothing but penetrable.  
pierce me by hand

until I seep,  
make the river weep  
rancid with red

*Headwaters,*  
take me in portion, in part

carry the within of me  
in  
let me bleed into America