

2-20-2018

## Two Poems

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### Recommended Citation

Lilley, Joanna (2018) "Two Poems," *The Goose*: Vol. 16 : Iss. 2 , Article 42.  
Available at: <http://scholars.wlu.ca/thegoose/vol16/iss2/42>

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## ***Tylosaurus***

More shadow than bone,  
lavender phalanges projected  
on a pale wall.  
Ribs drip from a tangled  
riverbank of vertebrae.

X-ray mosasaur,  
stone-eyed, palm-holed,  
your lacquered bones  
hang in the order you died  
inside a river hill.

You sea-swam, flipper-steered,  
plotted pygal, caudal twists  
to cage seabirds, sharks  
and plesiosaurs in your teeth –  
and gulp.

*Omācīw*. Hunter of the Prairie Sea.  
Your prey never named you.  
You were sea shudder  
on skin, scale, feather.  
You were unstoppable tide.

## **Eelgrass Limpet**

Take a pair of scissors  
to the old striped cushion  
on Grandmother's  
Atlantic-weathered porch.  
It might be stuffed  
with pale eelgrass.

Among the tangled blades  
there might be a shell.  
Tawny, more oblong than round,  
a modest brooch:  
the eelgrass limpet.  
The last one died  
between the human wars.  
You might have sat on it  
for years, drinking tea  
and staring at the sea.

**JOANNA LILLEY** is the author of the poetry collections *If There Were Roads* (Turnstone Press), and *The Fleece Era* (Brick Books), which was nominated for the Fred Cogswell Award for Excellence in Poetry. She is also the author of the short story collection *The Birthday Books* (Hagios Press). Joanna is from the UK and now lives in Whitehorse, Yukon. You can find her online at [www.joannalilley.com](http://www.joannalilley.com).