

WHEN I DREAM OF DROWNING ALONE,
MY LOVER IS BREATHING BESIDE ME

We swear an oath to always
wake. The purple watchwoman

signals from shore. Her scarves
flare above the water. She turns

away, walking up the steep steps
cut into the cliffside. You and I

go down, we drown on the night's
ship. We float apart in the dark

until morning. An umbilical snake
knots us together even while

we sleep; we scare ourselves
awake at the rippling of the deep.

I wake with your name stuck
to my tongue. The only dreams

I remember are the ones
that you're in. I turn and curl,

careful not to wake you. I wake
and forget how close sleep

is to falling. Each undiscovered
world's flat. They tilt and waver

on the fault of wakefulness.
Hold fast to the edges. Find me

when I'm afraid. Hold me
when fear has taken me far.