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## 2 poems

Kelly Weber

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## 2 POEMS

Kelly Weber

### little song, quickening

a cry clean as a coffin at the party everyone  
softly competes to hold the baby and I cannot  
make myself feel this rain glazes the glass they  
are saying *my pretty girl my pretty girl* a soft  
pink eucharist face crumbling on the boat we  
can see the shadows of fish on the sonar  
branches poking above the lake's shore I touch  
my lips am I a woman am I femme enough if I  
don't want small bones pressed against my  
chest on land the fontanelle forest is gray &  
stripped of bark by deer everyone wants to  
hold the thing in my chest a doe unfolds its hooves  
hold me steady if she breaks loose she  
can't swim neither of us can I can be as small as  
a baby's fourteen-inch box

### Aroace Girl with Kettles and Cradles

I make space for everyone and for every man's anger  
  
like lead in milk I know how to be invisible even to myself  
  
come morning I'll be girl again  
  
but tonight I'm unchurched jawbone chewing sulphur from  
  
a match for every time I've smiled in spite of

I shut out the mouths of everyone who wants  
to feed from whatever teat they can find on me  
I bow in a kitchen fulminated to such unfamiliar light  
I tear my lips off so no words soften  
my spine to salt—I slide my hand down to cradle  
every name for the extinction I pull from between my thighs  
loving no one but myself  
I am so unconscionable  
a heart boils in the belly of every kettle screaming like a baby  
I will arrange all my locks  
of hair on the floor and call them my periods  
severed from the ends of sentences for people  
all I've grown just to cut away

KELLY WEBER is the author of the forthcoming poetry collection *We Are Changed to Deer at the Broken Place* (Tupelo Press) and the forthcoming chapbook *The Dodo Heart Museum* (Dancing Girl Press). Her work has received Pushcart nominations and has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Laurel Review*, *Brevity*, *The Missouri Review*, *Cream City Review*, *Palette Poetry*, *Southeast Review*, *Passages North*, and elsewhere. She holds an MFA from Colorado State University and lives in Colorado with two rescue cats. More of her work can be found at [kellymweber.com](http://kellymweber.com).