

O'Caine

my brother drowned. the madrono was there with the supplies. everyone was there. he fell off the landing. my mother thought my father had him, my father thought my mother had him, and he drowned. in front of everybody. he was six. and we came in to san francisco for the burial. my father couldn't get in because there was nobody to take his place on the light, there was too much for three men to do, just too much. so my mother and me and the rest of the children went in. to san francisco. we went on the madrono. and the captain put him in his cabin. they had him stretched on a board and wrapped in canvas.

JENNIFER KULBECK

Cyrus

Cyrus O’Caine
stood under his hat
on watch
in the lighthouse tower
27 miles away
from the burial

his son
wrapped in canvas
and his wife
and the other children
out there

and the island was covered in fog
and the light was steady

Jennifer Kulbeck is always looking at the Farallon Islands. She collects pastimes and household objects from rummage sales, makes broadsides and block prints in her garage, and plays with the San Francisco Slayers softball team.