San Antonio Review

ER Visit

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-After Lucie Brock-Broido

X-rays revealed a lack of insulation, mottled fish scales
cemented to my hipbones, a zinc coating on the ribs.

Even though I traffic in the nails and 2x4s of the world actual,
I'm frightened by mankind's overripe groans.

So what if the black cherries of my medulla oblongata
present with diminutive skin?

I know you're reading the inverse print of the carbon paper
looking for a darker story

and it's true the church bells

of my youth ridicule me still.

But galvanized steel is always more reckless than bronze.

Though both transmit the tenor of a rainstorm to the inner core.

Jen Ashburn is the author of *The Light on the Wall* (Main Street Rag, 2016) and has work published in numerous venues, including *The Fiddlehead*, *The Writer's Almanac*

and Pedestal Magazine. She holds an MFA from Chatham University, and lives in Pittsburgh.