

Anatomy of the Universe

By Chloe Leach

1.

I want to split open the sky
And gaze upon the other side
To see how the universe looks
When her skin is peeled away
And I can see the clockwork

I want to pry apart her ribs
Curved white and thin
So I may watch her lungs expand
As twin muses
Painting the sunset

To hold her beating heart
In four pieces,
North and South
And East and West
Throbbing down
A billion capillaries
Threaded through the mountaintops
And rivers
Through the sun and moon

Though I need not see her brain
To know the electricity that passes
In furtive glances,
Trembling fingertips

In poetry, alive and thrumming
With a message to the universe
Carry on, Carry on
We are flawed,
But trying

2.

The night is not so empty,
In the end
When even silence holds a pulse
Beating with my own,
Insistent
As if somewhere in the music
Both drummer and drums were lost

Chloe wrote "Anatomy of the Universe" while in the 11th grade. She lives in Fairbanks, Alaska, where she enjoys "the company of friends and family in between bouts of frenzied writing."