Following Krill

Diane Warner

We've been talking since I arrived,

sitting at the picture window

overlooking the Sound.

The sky is getting darker,

but we haven't yet admitted

that we were ever lost.

I watch the tide shifting,

ribbon-streaked, and when I decipher

what I see there,

and flukes roll into the light, shining

close to the cliff. He wonders if they've ranged

he hears them blasting as they swim

My father says sometimes at high tide

too far off course, following krill into the Strait, then down to the Sound.

They are too big for this small water, and maybe-

my father never finishes telling me

the story of his life.

black as briny water silvers down

Through binoculars, hump

I show my father a spouting whale.