

# Editor's Notes

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...I am trying to understand something about how we dwell in our bodies, in our lives, in our loves. I am learning that I don't have to lunge toward the fleeting presence of my gone daughter; if I am quiet, in my own skin, I will register her, a singing flutter of light. She is my inhabitation.

I consider my scarred self, its laborious move back into the fullness of a life. Some descents offer you better vision, stronger lungs, more nerve. Wreckage can bless you, I am learning to believe that, wreckage can crack you open, make more space for the world to get in. Love is an awkward dance of pain & celebration, & here I am again: out of grief, singing.

—Charlene Diehl, *Out of Grief, Singing*

In this issue of Folio, the literary section of ARM Journal, I am pleased to present excerpts from the work of Charlene Diehl. Her memoir titled *Out of Grief, Singing* is an eloquent and moving elegy, an account of the birth and death of her infant daughter Chloe. Through Charlene Diehl's intimate, poetic narratives, we are brought into birth, death, mourning, grief and loss. The author offers us her deeply personal embodied experiences in a memoir that reminds us of the astonishing bond of mother to child, the folding of the child into the mother's being, a bond described by Diehl as "more potent than history can record." Ultimately, the writer shares her journey of loss in a way that assures us that after such deep grief, it is possible to feel joy and love and beauty again. As readers, I believe many of us will find ourselves in Charlene Diehl's courageous considerations of the scarred human self and its capacity to rise "out of grief, singing."

Rishma Dunlop