

10 Weeks Pregnant, Entering Spring

by Renee Emerson

Already you learn the new identities—
shelter, haven, lovely vessel.
Your vision is for your home
and for the area surrounding.
At the window, looking out on the
cropped dead grass of February
and small buds of leaves green on the oaks,
you take down your hair. This is a signal,
a reflection of something you learned
from your mother. The monotonous
habits that keep you human. The day
immersed in the delicate tension between
winter and spring. Already, you can feel
the new life. A heaviness
in the stomach. Your husband says
he can feel it too, when your bodies
are pressed together, fluent
in your own language.