

# A Good Conversation

by Donelle Dreese

A good conversation can change your life.  
You'll know when it happens by the way everything  
dancing in the crowded periphery falls away like low tide.

In a good conversation,  
eyes speak their own language of people  
who have kept from drowning  
by making themselves weightless and clutching seaweed.

Then, your voice arrives at the shore of your life.  
Words rush like wind gusts over a choppy sea  
picking up waves and letting them curl in the air  
before they meld back into calm utterance.

Like a golden finch or a bluebird  
good conversations flash their candid color  
and when they're gone, we look for them the way we  
might look for a young white-tailed rabbit  
that scurried across the garden stone walk.

This conversation might become a walk in the woods  
or a soft exchange on a busy street while you buy the morning newspaper  
but make no mistake, I want to hear the unabridged libretto of your life.