Venus, Dante, Crow

Scott Beauchamp

Over the disorganized streets of Oistins

Spiderwebs broken by the evening wind

Venus hangs a thumb-width above the sea

Bright enough to put shadows on the sand

Without the help of the moon

Christ Church Parish Church washed to sea in 1669

Only four tombs held onto the land

The rest reach up from the mottled ocean floor

In conspiracy

Venus absorbed its moon

Long before Dante's expanding eternal pearl

Absorbed us completely, like

Light left uncleft by water

Everything is still the same

As ten years ago

When I waited to go to war

I'm not myself without my desires

Love remains an occult activity

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Venus disappears behind ambient

Trails of gathering moisture

A crow on the beach guards an empty chair

An omen announcing only itself