

HOLLY DAY

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## Plate 23

Boniface VIII made it illegal to boil the bones  
of any man who had died abroad, so during his papacy  
all corpses had to be carried intact, or in bloody chunks  
from whatever holy battlefield they met their end.

Anatomists of the day had to make their drawings  
of skeletons from the burnt or impaled corpses of criminals  
interred above ground as a warning to their countrymen  
of what happened to heretics, whores, lunatics, and thieves.

Therefore, all anatomical drawings we have from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries  
are drawn only from those quietly subversive sources, picked clean by birds  
disemboweled by wolves.

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**HOLLY DAY** has taught writing classes at the Loft Literary Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota, since 2000. Her poetry has recently appeared in *Tampa Review*, *SLAB*, and *Gargoyle*, while her newest nonfiction book, *Tattoos FAQ*, is coming out from Backbeat Books in early 2018.

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