

Hatch at Dawn

Jacqui Beck - for Laura, 2014

Hatch at dawn
I choose my new name, I am the reborn.
I declare, decide, transform.

Ease into it. Life emerges
from this moment.

I stretch forth, newly
born,
soft skin.
Anew. Renew. I step forth.
Easy. No, not easy.

Someone questions me.
"Are you a man or a woman?"
I'm me.
I am a woman.

Over the hump? Oh, yes,
then the next hump rears
its head.

We don't like,
don't accept you,
can't manage "she."
Too much to handle, to understand.

Wearing a dress? Oh, dear, no.
Pretend you're a man,
just for me.
I can't take it.

Return to your shell.
The least you can do
for us.

Take it.
Take me,
leave me.
Don't leave me
alone to walk this road.
No one said it was easy. Break the shell. Walk with me.