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## The Dance of My Body

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# The Dance of My Body

By Elizabeth Claverie

The dance of my body

is deceiving—

it is needling up and down  
as fast as it can,  
pulling in fabric and pushing it out again  
speeding, humming the starts and stops  
of bits of songs—  
breaking thread, pausing only long  
enough to be refreshed  
then the treadle is spurred on to  
even more fabric to mend, bind and piece  
and the day moves on.

but—  
deep in a crease  
in a dark linty furrow  
the moves are slow and deliberate.

my arms undulate in the warm breeze  
stretch like flexing willows  
bowing and waving.

my legs leap and hold themselves in mid-air  
twirling in waves of wind  
my hair pirouetting in swirls  
in a slow motion dance in 4-4 time  
of swimming in clouds and falling into dreams.