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# A View of Titian's Mary Magdalene

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A View of Titian's Mary Magdalene ·  
*Ilene Moskin*

She would hang herself  
with her snarling hair,  
yet her breast remains brilliant,  
its nipple, a rakish crown, a spire.

I watch this Mary Magdalane  
who kissed the young boy Jesus  
and shadowed him to the well.

Lifted from his skull—  
that plundered box on the table—  
the gold that was his halo  
winks now at her lips, her sleeve.

Kisses—even mourning,  
Mary's mouth is brimming with them.  
She cannot spit them out  
like cherry stones.

The chilly god  
crops out along her body.  
She can't conceal the stolen gold.