Genevieve Kaplan, an Iowa Writers’ Workshop Graduate, offers an innovative meditation on domestic life and the physical world that surrounds it, chronicling “at least the beginnings of some disaster” taking place in a landscape that “had no symmetry.” Readers confront the menace of the ordinary, “the whale-faced spout of the drainpipe, the cluck / of the chicken-bird” and how “the light attacks / the window and the stress of the shining / does not ease.” The poet’s insistent evocation of elemental images—the birds, the ice, the water—becomes almost incantatory, as the speaker seeks escape from “the frantic outside” she’s trapped within. Moving artfully between internal desires and incisive observations of the external, these stunning poems radiate with both heat and ice.

Praise for In the ice house:

“We find ourselves wandering deep, deep into the world in this collection of sharp, startling poems—poems that often have a swerve at the end, sending us to the unexpected. The birds return, and the trees, and the ice, always the ice, but each time, new piercing details come into view. Though spare on the page, these pieces radiate a wealth born of Genevieve Kaplan’s unique and invaluable view of the world.” —Cole Swensen

“The precise, crystalline lyrics of Genevieve Kaplan’s In the ice house reveal that wonder exists everywhere in the habits and habitations of domestic space. There is no beauty so small, so vernacular that it escapes the illumined attention of this gifted poet. These are poems to read the world by.” —Peter Gizzi

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