

## Peacock's Egg

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*Chalaza* 1: either of two spiral bands in the white of a bird's egg that extend from the yolk and attach to opposite ends of the lining membrane  
- Merriam-Webster

Once my hands were hands  
building towers, climbing trees  
in childhood gardens – I

don't remember  
(*You don't choose to remember,*  
says my helpful therapist) –

my body pieces, someone  
else's false teeth never  
do what I want, none,

wild animals – each part  
belongs to a different fool  
and the I that sits and watches

cannot put me together, arm  
bone, rib, toe, spine,  
badly stitched.

In my sleep I hear  
startled cries,  
my own,

torn; I could be  
part officer and part  
private,

completely ungovernable.  
I'm told none of me  
is true.

In morning mirrors look  
for memories written  
where flesh meets flesh.

Once I shaved my skull,  
under hair shadow  
no letters; for my pains

tied down for a week.