# DIVINING FOR STARTERS

### Also by Carrie Etter

The Tethers as editor, Infinite Difference: Other Poetries by UK Women Poets

# **Divining for Starters**

Carrie Etter

Shearsman Books Exeter First published in the United Kingdom in 2011 by Shearsman Books 58 Velwell Road Exeter EX4 4LD

http://www.shearsman.com/

ISBN 978-1-84861-150-4

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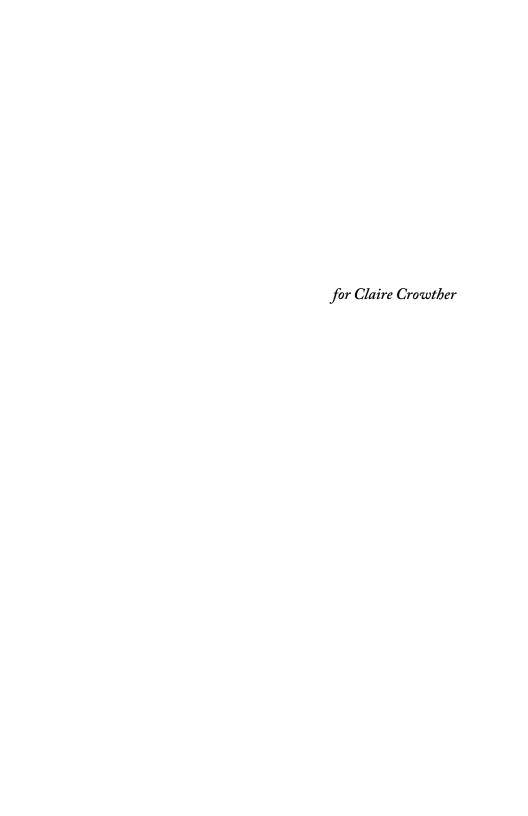
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I

# Landed

### Divining for Starters (2)

considering human cell division

that piling days indicate toppling hours

here the cellist raises her bow

(what now on the leaf)

and fifty years ago schoolchildren rolled mercury over their desks

isolate and social

divining for starters

which stone drives the ripple

going for circumference, provision, and jasmine

another delicate startle

on the rancid plateau

## Divining for Starters (18)

The small stand of trees now quickened by a gale, each leaf losing its discrete

And again a rest that resembles languor for the light nearing noon

The unseen, sunseen work of chlorophyll I know and don't know proceeds

The reflexive work of the body apace despite its seeming reticence

Yet I linger on the tree as though it alone

And again a rest that resembles languor for the light nearing

### McLean County Highway 39

tar shrugs goes to dirt gravel's slow crunch over winter with no hill for frost to the horizon

\*

green hectares rising into Illinois' no blond endeavour but for the corn tassels dangling covert silk threads

\*

cycle up dirt-dust's brown haze flattening thought a prairie the only height for miles a grove its doe

\*

sweat and cornstalks taller than pushed through the close click into speed sticking hairs peel the nape free

\*

all exhale the green expanse cicadas' two notes sunset the red eye pink strata push an unwavering line \*

without thought three miles out an idle porch swing shrug or flattening not silence but nothing heard in

\*

soybeans crouch along even as horizon at my back cools toward streetlamps and cement glide in the last

#### Prairie

sprawling through night a train's low horn the crossings empty the drivers' ritual maintained reflex or especial precaution

do the sleepers hear it do their ears make unconscious record to litanize

a prescience without particularity unbound on prairie to vague expectation with or without hope

with or without the train whistle's thread reminder redeemer

of silence each isolate mind banked in prescience if it's not nostalgia impalpable in small hours impalpable

in the drift as names ease from objects unmannered ritual especial withoutness

#### Treeline

```
What meets behind the trees

(it is the arc of a sigh)

what must, what does, what may

(from the floor tiles of would-that-I-were-not)

faith or science or

(the vice must be adjusted to allow movement without escape)

the shortest article in world news: a new planet, perhaps

(the swum line)

that aery sustenance

(the arc, as in the degrees of perception)

one assuaging glimpse
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