

Riding the Elephant

For Addison

by Kelly Vande Plasse

Because the body is the animal
you will ride through your life.
Because each body bears its own afflictions.
Sometimes the body is a horse
that gallops across the plains, mane
flying in a wind of its own
making. Other times,
the body is an elephant, mourning
its losses - low sway of ears, tail, trunk
as it travels slowly
 across waves of distance.
When the horse tires,
remember the elephant.