

## Birds You Cannot See

### The Handsome Family

There are birds in the darkness that douse electrical fires  
Flaring up in nursing homes and the bedrooms of blind men  
Birds you cannot see

There are birds in the darkness who nest in wooden crutches  
Eye patches and bandages, broken spinal columns  
And pots of winter plants

Birds you cannot see  
Filling every tree  
Falling out of closets  
And perched on the hands of dying men

There are birds in the darkness who lead lost dogs off highways  
Steer boats past icebergs, save children stuck in wells  
Birds you cannot see

There are birds in the darkness seen by those with tumors  
Circling common light bulbs with blue-feathered halos  
And the sound of rain

Birds you cannot see  
Filling every tree  
Falling out of closets  
And perched on the hands of dying men