



## Imperfect Present: Poems

**Sharon Dolin**

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In this masterclass in effervescent wordcraft, even as it ranges through troubled terrain, Sharon Dolin proves to be a poet for the love of sanity. Seven collections of poetry, a Pushcart Prize, 2021 National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship recipient, and Witter Bynner Fellowship from the Library of Congress all attest to her boundless talent.

*Self-Portrait as a Corncrake*

*There is no ratchet thirst like this  
.....no pinions burst  
.....nor dominion girt like this*

*there is no sporadic quiet like this  
.....no barrier tight like this  
.....no hay meadow flight*

*there is no awake like this  
.....no feathered shake  
.....no migrant slaked like this*

*there is no fraught like this  
.....no one wing caught like this  
.....nor hunted one sought*

*there is no age like this  
.....no brink of next stage  
.....no nest in shade like this*

*there is no sedge like this  
.....no now—no wedge—like this  
.....no how.*

MATT SUTHERLAND (November / December 2022)

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