

Cuyahoga County Public Library

By Samantha Imperi

SHAKE

Everyone knows
you never, but
what if I break?
What if I can't take
it? What if one day
it cries and cries
like a record skipping
on a hairline scratch

and what if I was always a bad person?
Did you know?
Would you have told me?
Do you have a metric
that can judge?
Wouldn't haunts me
like a cobweb
the ghost of someone else's home

clinging to my skin
and I keep remembering
those who didn't
and how they suffered
for forgetting. I can't be told
what I'm capable of,

such nurturance
and such destruction. If I am

an earthquake, then my child
is a mountain, an eruption
along my fault lines,
so clearly defined here
at the places I split.

I would rather
have birthed stone
than something I could kill.