

## **Fear Factor**

by Sara Holbrook

I know you.

You.

Courage,

how you ask for what is mine. How you swell in my chest, speak up,  
straighten my spine,  
and whisper in my ear,

*Okay, you say.*

*Okay.*

*It's going to be okay.*

More than

the shoe, the step,  
the doorknob turn.

More than a precipice.

A fall.

A burn.

I fear you will abandon me, evaporate  
and not return.

But every time,  
when faced with  
choice or change  
it is your voice that  
cuts through clouds of gray.

*Okay, you say.*

*Okay.*

*It's going to be okay.*