

Sarah White

The Old Woman and the Crows

(for Joyce Brown)

Of the crows that sat and joked
in her Kentucky Coffee Tree

even the shadows are lost
since the day she climbed the hollow trunk

to see the dust, debris, and insect skins
inside—reasons why the tree-man said

she had to let it go. She falls to the lawn
in sorrow, and stays

until, in honor of the crows' high humor,
she pulls herself together,

gathers some familiar toys, clothes, bibelots,
and, where the shadow of birds and branches

fell before, she leaves
donations to the Good Will Store.

Sarah White's sixth poetry collection will be published by Deerfield Editions in 2020.
She lives, writes, and paints in New York City.