

KIM GOLDBERG

Pear Pie

There's a hole in the heartwood
 where something green used to grow
 but is gone now and rot
 has set in. I'm
 sealing it over with clay so
 it doesn't fill up with rain
 this winter
 and spread the rot further
 throughout the core down into the
 roots and out every
 limb. The clay is

smooth and soft and wet like your skin
 when we stood behind
 Ammonite Falls
 watching the world through a veil
 of white thunder, listening to the silence
 of our shouts

that made our throats sore.

But it will harden to rock when it dries
 so the rest of the tree will be safe and can
 carry on. Pear pie

is best made with brown sugar
 a dusting of nutmeg and a quarter teaspoon
 of ginger.