

tenth sign

—after watching Grizzly Man (*the man who
wandered out to be with bears and then became one*)

i didn't recognize it at first.
a deep voice asking Jesus for help.
he covers Kristofferson's 'Why me.'
Jesus covers everything else.
why is it so easy to forget a song you love?

when my mom played *Jesus Was a Capricorn*
i would rub her back
and get up to return the needle
to 'Why me' over and over.
sometimes i still play a song, eat something
or love someone until i have exhausted my desire.

the one i loved loved me.
but she wasted it so.
a Capricorn with no use for zodiacs, pendulums
or Jesus' promises, she wanted a confession.
i would only admit that all water is holy.

the one i loved—exacting, exhausting—
placed a pincushion cactus in a room
destitute of sunlight and faulted it
for shriveling down to spines.

our answer to *why me*
was trying to humble each other
into believing in love the way people accept
we have a full moon in Jesus.

every day i walk my little dog
no matter the weather.
he doesn't look for signs
he has found a way to be a dog.