Where She Always Was

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MAGDALENE BATHING

I dare not think of you,
yet from this riven cross
the deaths won’t stop.
You were almost no one,
but each time we touched, a ring scar
showed up on my finger.
Now from the nail that aches above
the pumice stones and oils,
I drape my stained veil
from your stained hand. I squat down
sore and naked and alone
to be wept clean each starry morning.