

HOMELESS

after "Undersea" by Jennifer Bevill

The underside of softness is wire.

A mentally ill mother is a stiff
frame: her worry fingers hold
her child

in.

Who hasn't wanted
to hold a thing in? A scream, say,
or bird or ocean?

A cage is for protection, invisible
from a distance,

only visible
to the child

who turns

permeable,

pours

through

an

opening,

the way vines

riot

for

sky