

ANNE CARSON

Shadowboxer

Of the soldier who put a spear through Christ's side on the cross
(and by some accounts broke His legs),
whose name was Longinus,
it is said
that after that he had trouble sleeping
and fell into a hard mood,
drifted out of the army
and came west,
as far as Provincia.
Was a body's carbon not simply carbon.
Jab hook jab.
Slight shift and we catch him
in a moment of expansion and catastrophe,
white arms sporting strangely in a void.
Uppercut jab jab hook jab.
Don't want to bore you,
my troubles jab.
Jab.
Jab.
Punch hook.
Jab. Was a face all still
as dew in April.
Hook.
Jab.
Jab.