

Helen Holmes

Jane

A crown gall,
they found it inside her body.
I imagined its cross section like a burr,
or like cork—
all suberised.
It could look like
a section of spalted trunk—
blackstrap coaly seams
making the wood marbled.
Or maybe
it could sort of peel away in papery layers,
and probably seep amber.

She's shedding her leaves for
the winter now,
but she'll be blooming,
and she'll be spiralling
back in spring.