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## In BIO 325

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## IN BIO 325

WE HAD TO LABEL  
A DIAGRAM OF THE  
FEMALE WOMB AND  
I MARKED HALF THE  
PARTS "FIRE," THE  
OTHER HALF, "SMOKE"

**ANNE  
LIVINGSTON**

I came out  
blue, the way  
newborns' crowns  
emerge all  
pointed from  
pressure through  
birth canal.

I came out  
quivering  
the same as  
any straight  
arrow. My  
mother will  
tell you this  
story and  
her other  
favorite  
times that  
I almost  
died. Like when  
the house caught  
fire and they  
ran outside  
but forgot  
me, so my  
mother risked  
her skin for  
mine, she says  
like she is  
still running  
from the room  
where I was  
born, the door  
collapsing  
beneath her  
memory's  
flaming weight.