Earth Twins

I’m not like you,
my twin.
Our breathing blood
was spilt in the wind
that split your soul from mine.

Open your mouth, my twin,
give me the kiss of life
that feeds with warmth
the frail breath
of my soul without yours.

Despite our differences,
my twin,
we can intertwine our fingers
and our hope in the dream
that finally unites us.

The earth that cradles my sleep
will become clay tomorrow
and you blended with me
will become the warm water
that shapes our joined souls.

The sun and wind will slowly
soothe our sorrows
and, more than twins,
we will become seeds
ready for sowing.

Izabel Brandão, Espiral de fogo (Maceió: Edufal, 1998)
What Men Seek

It is hard to think of men seeking their mothers for something more than the comfort of their laps.

Men seek always their fathers for the strong knife that empowers labour like Heaney in Ireland seeking from his father and grandfather the spade that digs for the food and the poem.

Now women seek but do not always find roots that strengthen their lives more than their mothers’

to become mothers of ideas, or of musical seeds, singing as though sifting gold in the sun.

Autobiography

for Dona Bela
ready-made seasoning is for lazy women ...
I am one of them

My cooker is the computer
my books the cooking pots
my pens are spoons
and my plates the papers where I’ve cooked

poems
essays
and the daily recipes
that I forgot to write

Izabel Brandão, As horas da minha alegria
(Ilha de Santa Catarina: Editora Mulheres: 2013)
The Last Harbour

From the window the sea is green and beautiful.  
It rains and the sun shines on the foundered ship.

Going away is simply useless  
for the other side of the looking glass is here.

The pomegranates are still green  
And the seeds have no flavour yet.

I’ve found that I have to stay.  
The sentence has not yet expired.

But now I see the sea without a shipwreck.  
I’ve got your iridescent shell  
and take possession of the window.

This sea is mine.  
The city too.

Izabel Brandão, *As horas da minha alegria*  
(Ilha de Santa Catarina: Editora Mulheres: 2013)