To Be Held

By Linda Hogan

To be held
    by the light
    was what I wanted,
    to be a tree drinking the rain,
    no longer parched in this hot land.
To be roots in a tunnel growing
but also to be sheltering the inborn leaves
and the green slide of mineral
down the immense distances
into infinite comfort
and the land here, only clay,
still contains and consumes
the thirsty need
the way a tree always shelters the unborn life
waiting for the healing
after the storm
which has been our life.

Linda Hogan, "To Be Held" from *Dark. Sweet*. Copyright © 2014 by Linda Hogan. Reprinted by permission of Coffee House Press.

Source: Dark. Sweet. (Coffee House Press, 2014)