

## The Dead

by [Sarah Rossiter](#) in the [August 2023](#) issue

Today the dead speak, friends, relatives—  
I am older now, there are so many—  
strangers too, Rumi, Mary Magdalene,  
Jesus, those I have never met but know.  
To hear you must listen with the ears of  
your heart, the way you listened as a child,  
arms wrapped around the slim body of  
the birch, ear pressed to the smooth skin  
to hear the sap whisper *I am here, you are  
not alone*, the dead too, living inside us,  
whispering *Yes, Yes, Yes*.