Sometimes the wind cries, and we listen. Sometimes a poem, carried on the breath, sings free in the air between us, and we open our lives and receive it. What is the freedom—so often missing in the theological world of institutional Christianity—that inhabits the natural world, that resides in our arts and in poetry? If we can tap into or enjoy such freedom, might Christianity be released from some of its constraining habits, might it become truer to its own revelations? Two Biblical words for "spirit," the Hebrew RUAH and the Greek pneuma, mingle the meanings of spirit, wind, and breath. Poetry, in embodying all three, is peculiarly fitted for honoring and extending the freedom of the creative Spirit. While explicitly religious terms may never appear, the craft of language, image, music, and the desires and constraints of living that converge in poetry can help us cherish Christian faith loosely, can increase our permeability to the sacred as it moves among us, calling in myriad ways.

Christina Hutchins received her B.S. from the University of California, her M.Div. from Harvard, and is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the Graduate Theological Union (GTU) in Berkeley, California. Her academic positions include: Teaching and Research Fellow at GTU (1999-2001), Administrator at Disciples Seminary Foundation, and Adjunct Faculty at Pacific School of Religion, where she is at present.

Her poetry includes a book, Collecting Light (Acacia Books, 1999), and has also appeared in anthologies and musical compositions. She has published many public addresses, sermons, and journal articles. She is a member of the American Academy of Religion; the American Academy of Poets; and the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers.
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