

ALICE MAJOR

Three-body problem

Two bodies present no
insoluble equations.
Their motions elegant, simple,
they will orbit each other forever
tracing a perfect ellipse
around the shared heart.

But add the smallest satellite –
weight of an unborn child, lovers
in the most transitory
of conjunctions,
the weight of a memory
circling in the dark –

and no one can calculate
when the instabilities begin,
when ellipse may evolve
into spiral, into tangent,
into the geometry
of heartbreak.

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