The Chill of Arrival

The Triple Goddess "corresponds to the three phases of womanhood: maiden [Persephone], mother [Demeter], and crone [Hecate]." —Johanna H. Stuckey, Women's Spirituality: Contemporary Feminist Approaches to Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Goddess Worship (2010).

—or, the chill of a rival: when I arrive, mid-century, at this place where as Lady of the House, keeper of the hearth, source of Life, I am displaced —for while my moon time wanes my girl's will rise, until it washes out all other lights, placing mine in shadow as her younger sister watches, worries, waits her turn: we three suddenly become lunar phases, or faces of the female trinity. Now, doing laundry is like reading tea leaves or playing Tarot, checking their underpants for Eve's sin. Or a game of Bridge: Ace of Hearts, turned face up on the table, trumping all othersAs my cells have instinctively made room for new cells to stand alone, flourish, shaping newest female curves, harp of hips, rising tide of breasts long rounded legs, estrogen-glowing skin—

As the woman, bearing beauty
who built them, with their father's help, I have
pushed forth the next wave, reaching far into the future
leaving me gasping behind
caught in this bitter back-spray,
the cold wake of it,
our success.