Rebuilding

And you?
When will you begin
that long journey into yourself?

The Rumi quote made sense at the time.
It said I needed to stop comparing myself to others
if I wanted to ever *love myself* again.

Said I needed to stop caring about what others
might think about me, about my body's appearance,
about my own trans experience.

Most of the time I just want to live my gender,
not let my gender live me. I want to see things
like bodies without trauma whispering in my ear.

I still shake, still sob, still lie down in the cold grass
behind the elementary school on clear November nights
asking for some kind of direction through all this change.

My shape is constantly evolving from curve to square, but really
I'm just the same kid who wants to fit inside a circle of peers,
who learned that the ground is hard but not unforgiving.

Who is still learning to let go of all that contains him
and that there are no rules —

just the ones he leaves behind
as he rebuilds himself again and again.