

William Crombie

Self-Portrait as Pair of Crows

Hunched on a lattice of branches against midnight sky, dark on dark on dark. Of, but apart from. Crow did not join his older sibling Raven in his theft of fire, and the reason his feathers turned black is a less heroic story.

He tried to fly after diving for fish— sodden wings do not catch air as well as dry ones, and he flew straight into a heap of elk dung.

This is why crows avoid foraging in all but the shallowest puddles, and this is why they love to shit on people. Though Crow was not the one to steal Eagle's embers, he shares his brother's latent criminality: two crows perched in a tree are, inevitably, attempted murder.