

Beyond doubt

by [Kathleen O'Toole](#) in the [August 30, 2017](#) issue

*"Truth!" said Pilate. "What does that mean?"*

—John 18:38

The minute the preacher named it, I knew:  
Thomas was a hero, not the foil. It took guts  
for him to offer his hand to Jesus' slit  
side, to poke his fingers into the nail holes.  
And besides, *he* was the honest one: *What  
do you mean, you saw him?* Logical to ask  
his brothers still cowering behind locked  
doors. And how come Mary Magdalen  
never earns a Sunday solo—her moment  
of truth, recognition, in the Easter garden,  
her witness buried like the lost coin,  
in the mid-week lectionary days after  
we celebrate the Resurrection she proclaimed.  
In truth, she and Thomas should be our guides:  
wail that grief out in some public place,  
question if you doubt, but bloody your hands  
in the world wounds for Christ's sake  
do what it takes to find your way.