

Chambered Nautilus

Four chambered heart
fragile nautilus barque
your sway and thump
thwarted by a cage
of ribs – eve's unlucky
thirteen protection.
Ballast. Break it.
Carve a chink
in this body's armor.
Float the heart
high out on a
tide of desire
and faith.
Make maps
with mouths
and lose them
in limbs laced
together – only your
flesh shall be
my fence.
The place my heart
will not
pass.

Crystal Ockenfuss