

FLASHBACK WITH PAPER BIRCH & ROCK GARDEN

for & after Cynthia Cruz

Then the ambulances arrive screaming.
I'm disguised as a marigold—
And stood under the lush of a white-barked tree.
The day with its kingdom of bees
& scary flowerbed ring-necked snake.
An empty box of Good & Plenty
trampled in peat & sugar ants.
They suctioned my mother's stomach
& wheeled her away.
How I twisted
to the sun, how I stood.
How I glittered my exquisite orange
sorrow in the moss.

Bonnie Jill Emanuel

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Poetry

⊗ Photograph Late 1980s, *Jessica Barksdale*

On Buoyancy and the Loss of the Ability to Worry, *Janine Certo*

Pasta Maker, *Janine Certo*

Waiting, *Janine Certo*

Epistle to My Unborn Child, *Jordan Charlton*

Gladiolus, *Michael Dechane*

Flashback with Paper Birch and Rock Garden, *Bonnie Jill Emanuel*

Snow, *Kate Gaskin*

C: The Language of Grief, *Kathryn Petrucelli*

Perseids, *Crystal Stone*

A Kind of Lightning, *S. Yarberry*