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She Has Always Lived for the New Shoots

Tom Crawford

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"Better to hug close, wary of rubble and falling stones"
—Theodore Roethke

SHE HAS ALWAYS LIVED FOR THE NEW SHOOTS

and through the window i hear her
clipping the daisies
it will take her hours to get them
just right
she likes the back row to be tallest
and so on toward the brick
border before she puts on the black seal
of glidden
the moment when her face is darkest
and i am quick to tell her through the screen
"Sally, look behind you there's a squirrel at the feeder"
that i built for her that winter
and i imagine it's his love of her
that prevents him from reaching—
first the carrots
then the pellets
and finally the nuts