

# The Oval

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## Constellation in Red

Jade Taylor

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## POETRY

### *CONSTELLATION IN RED*

Jade Taylor

To stand in the hallway, to slip  
into the gravity of this old wood  
floor, the retrograde  
pattern of memory embossed  
on the walls like paper,  
is to orbit, to trace  
yourself around  
some fading red star;  
some flaking constellation;  
some cluster of hewn wood  
rising from the horizon line  
drawn by the end  
of the driveway.

You're in orbit, now  
circling the lawn.

*I remember*, you say, pointing  
to the trees, the swing, the cracks  
in the siding, *I remember*,  
the summer, your father, his hands  
stained with red paint.

You're in orbit, now  
in the passenger seat:  
A crumpled planet caught  
behind the moon.