

# The Oval

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Volume 5 | Issue 1

Article 3

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2012

## In the Garden in March

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### Recommended Citation

DeGrandpre, Katherine (2012) "In the Garden in March," *The Oval*: Vol. 5 : Iss. 1 , Article 3.

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# IN THE GARDEN IN MARCH

*By Katherine DeGrandpre*

From earth double dug  
and sifted between hands  
like Sunday school prayers,  
I pull the last overwintered kale  
for tonight's sacramental salad.  
I kneel in pews of soil  
among a congregation  
of scattered trowels  
and abandoned terra cotta,  
gloves cast aside for bare palms  
and dirty fingernails.  
I give my confession only to earth worms:

Forgive me father for I have sinned.  
It has been many seasons  
since my last confession.  
I have forgotten to dig the potatoes,  
and prune the raspberries.  
I have forsaken my flocks  
of cold crop cabbage  
and seedy winter wheat.  
I have dishonored the sunflowers,  
surrendering them unto the wind,  
and skipped a month of garden mass.

*Seven Hail Marys  
and dig for me fifty holes.  
In each hollow, place one green pea.  
Finish with new dirt.  
Build a trellis of sturdy bow.  
Wipe hands on Sunday's best jeans.  
Build me an ark of vines,  
and so this is my promise,  
rain will come.*