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Why Gardening Is Dangerous

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Lauren Burgess

Ryan Chighizola Prize Honorable Mention

Inspired by “When Ecstasy is Inconvenient” by Lorine Niedecker

Hear the hot day;
some lonely moon distantly whimpers.
Ask: what goes—
man’s life or man’s stave
into her consuming weeds?

Sower, be soft.
Know she is dead but she lived
like a rosebush by a back door
now sadly wilted,
once a gift for they who heard not
the slow grow of thorned,
ugly souls.

Learn quietly why
still some hold her seeds
in their unripe palms
and plant them.