



Excessive Tenderness

Aurelia Kessler, UAS Student, Juneau

To the woman buying peonies
because peonies exist
and also, because they are half-off
on Sunday afternoons
and the sun is shining
and why not?

Inside a one-room airport
waiting for a plane to ferry
me away to my children,
whom I love excessively, tenderly
and the woman buying peonies
tells me her husband died last year.

We parted ways
tenderly, the tenderness
of strangers, excessive
and unnecessary
but the sun is shining
and why not?