

JUDITH WALLER CARROLL

Planting the Gladiolas

I wake with the old fears,
but the day is warm
and the tattered sack of bulbs
has been waiting by the door
since the day your fever came back.

I am no gardener, but I find myself
working the soil, caught up in its dark depth,
the onion-like shapes that fit together
like clues to a mystery,
the pebbles of fertilizer that trickle
through my gloved fingers like holy water.

And everywhere the sound of birds—wrens,
finches, titmice—carrying winterberries
to the transparent sky.



ABOUT JUDITH WALLER CARROLL



Judith Waller Carroll's work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Naugatuck River Review*, *Umbrella*, *Stone's Throw Magazine*, several anthologies, on the international radio program, *Tales from the South*, and has been nominated for the Best of the Net. Her awards include the 2010 Carducci Poetry Prize from the Tallahassee Writers' Association. Her chapbook *Walking in Early September* is available from Finishing Line Press.

