JUDITH WALLER CARROLL

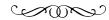
Planting the Gladiolas

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.

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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.

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