

ELLEN ESTILAI

Talisman

Carnelian beads against the heart
deflect the evil eye's sidelong glance,
but they are no match for
pomegranate seeds
dancing in the lover's hand.

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ABOUT ELLEN ESTILAI

Ellen Estilai received an MA in English language and literature from the University of Tehran. Her work has appeared in *Alimentum*, *Phantom Seed*, *Writing from Inlandia*, *Broad!*, and *Snapdragon*. She is a founding board member and advisory council member of Inlandia Institute, a literary center and publishing house in southern California. A retired arts administrator, she lives in Riverside, California.

