

M.S. ROONEY

Touching

Take the bouquet you were given,
yes, now, in your hands,
right here, with neither water
nor sunlight where you stand
to signal hope for staying.
All this has
no other place
to be.
Let the silken pollen fall,
soothe and stain
your fingers.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

M.S. Rooney's work has appeared in *Illuminations*, *Bluestem*, *The Cortland Review*, *3:AM Magazine*, and *Theodate*, as well as in the anthologies *Voices from the Porch* and *American Society: What Poets See*. She lives in Sonoma, California.

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