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## A Very Short Spring

Julie Jewett

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Sculpture

JUDAH NELSON



*A Very Short Spring*

JULIE JEWETT

The days shorten, the leaves drop  
birds search for a southernmost plain

all of life constricts, contracts  
compresses itself into little chambers  
the ice can't touch

A warm breeze causes the few brown leaves  
that are still clinging to their branches to stir  
and rustle like young girls' Easter dresses

and coaxes all of the little rodents and raccoons  
out of hiding, and the shy iris to unfurl and turn  
its petals, like spun silk, up toward the sun

Then the winds change again  
and the temperature drops; icy crystals bite  
into the earth

And then you know that  
all of the worst things you think about yourself  
I think them, too