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## Elephant Families

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## A Kennedy Dies

*Dirk Spencer*

In non-stormy weather  
They fell off the bridge together  
He managed to get free  
While Mary Jo Wheezed  
Remember Karma Comes Back in Threes

For you see . . .  
Under a Dallas sky  
Bullets fly  
While babies cry  
To a crowd's surprise  
A Kennedy dies

In a kitchen they were surprised  
As more bullets fly  
Sirhan sighs  
Rosey Grier cries  
A Kennedy dies

A Cockpit set too high  
The airplanes fly  
Under a night sky  
Ocean waters rise  
We know not why  
A Kennedy Dies

## bed of stars

*Claire Shipman*

i'm not drunk  
but i'm falling down  
hard and slow.  
can you see my momma?  
she never touched a drop  
but she tumbled  
just the same.

you won't recall  
this hand-me-down end  
on sterile sheets.  
my token will be the words  
you find yourself humming.  
songs from my mouth spilling  
over warm lips.

## Elephant Families

*Suzanne Rae Desbchidn*

We are one big elephant family  
Strong women  
Born of a line  
Of strong women  
Will we revisit the bones  
Of our fallen  
Matriarch  
Will we caress them  
Taste them  
Touch them  
As elephant families  
Do  
When they happen upon the bones  
Of their fallen ones  
Encircling the site  
In defensive posture  
Pawing bones with  
Mammoth toes  
Will we survive  
The falling of our  
Matriarch  
The one who led us  
Down the path  
To water  
And life  
Will we allow  
Another to rise among us  
Or will we beat her down  
Elephant families  
Continue  
As must we