



Metamorphosis

By Jenny Xie

Nowhere in those kerosene years
could she find a soft-headed match.

The wife crosses over an ocean, red-faced and cheerless.
Trades the flat pad of a stethoscope for a dining hall spatula.

Life is two choices, she thinks:
you hatch a life, or you pass through one.

Photographs of a child swaddled in layers arrive by post.
Money doesn't, to her embarrassment.

Over time, she grows out her hair. Then she sprouts nerves.
The wife was no fool, but neither did she wander.

She lives inside a season of thrift, which stretches on.
Her sorrow has thickness and a certain sheen.

The wife knows to hurry when she washes.
When she cooks, she licks spoons slowly.

Every night, she made a dish with ground pork.
Paired with a dish that was fibrous.

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Poet Bio



Jenny Xie earned degrees from Princeton University and New York University's Creative Writing Program, and has received fellowships and support from Kundiman, the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, the Elizabeth George Foundation, and Poets & Writers. She teaches at New York University.

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Sestina in Prose

By Katharine Coles

It was like climbing a mountain to those of us who'd climbed one. To the others, it was like, I suppose, something else. In other words, we let everybody find her own figure of speech....

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Town of Frijoles

By Ray Gonzalez

In the town of frijoles,
men eat their meals without...

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By Devin Johnston

We gathered in a field southwest of town,
several hundred hauling coolers...

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By Ada Limón

I like the lady horses best,
how they make it all look easy,...

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When I say *But mother, Black or not Black,*
Of course you are polyethnic, your look does not change...

Relationships

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How to Triumph Like a Girl

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I like the lady horses best,
how they make it all look easy,...

Living

Nature

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