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Some of the Ribbons

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Some of the Ribbons

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Some of the Ribbons

Georgia Beckmann

I inhale the clouds.

The world is pastel and soft and hazy like a nursery out of focus.

The trees wear frost wedding dresses and icicle veils.

The sun kisses the top of a frozen willow and a halo of lemon dandelion petals sprout from the end of my thumb, out of season.

The gloss of childhood coats my vision as the flower wilts into sprigs of pale down.

I glance below, and can see the railroad that runs under the bridge.

A mammoth spider stands there,

spindly legs the width of tree trunks.

The colossus shivers

like a dead branch in the wind as she walks along the tracks,

casting splintered shadows

that stretch for miles behind her.

I can see her wet eyelashes from here,

each as long as my arm.

She needs to forget.

She needs to be forgotten.

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The cold soaks through the soles of my shoes as I pass
the school and the castle and my childhood home.

Snot drips down the end of my nose
and splatters in droplets on the pavement like rain,
before turning to ice.

I exhale a memory
and my entropic mind
unfurls
like
ribbons,
sketching the hungry sky
as the amniotic fluid
of the universe
swallows me.