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THALAMUS (II)

Full water
doorway—
Venice echoing with music. Perhaps she heard
music as the plump
tissue gave way, effaced, then a flood
into the ventricle, speech wiped
into silence. Pregnant now
with thoughts instead of the child
who drove the pressure up, she and I dive
into a little drawing task together.

Where do I live? I'm trying to show her,
but my roads are angled wrong, I'm just
lost, like in the maze of Italian
streets, English monolingual without a map, my plosive sigh
draws from her an answering ripple of laughter.

Her eyes say, *in this moment*
as on an island at a festival
nothing to do about it, you nor I
can't get lost—*or out*.

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SHINGLES

It lies dormant
in dorsal root
waiting
through the Spring, Summer, and Fall of Life
for the perfect moment

before sprouting
a branch or two
dew drops
on rose petals by another name
heralded by the thorns.

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Reflections for June

Anna M. Barrett

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