

The Messenger

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The Tumor

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The Tumor

Late one evening
An inky substance
Began leaking
Into her personal diary,
Blotting out
A word here
A phrase there,
Obscuring names and places--
Memories she considered
As solid as the earth--
A particular violet sunset
A grandchild's brown pigtails
The names of three daughters--
Leaving in their place
A cold, quiet fear;
As the sky vanished
Behind dense, dark clouds
And the thin air froze
In grave, expectant stillness--
The night began
To drain color from the world
Leaving gray shadows
And black vacancies.

--- *Stefanie Gesiorski*