

# The Messenger

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## Tree of Life

J. Carson Pulley

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**From:** *j. carson pulley* <jpulley@richmond.edu>  
**Subject:** *Tree of Life*  
**Sent:** *February 20, 2000, 11:08 pm*  
**To:** *Messenger* <messenger@richmond.edu>  
**Cc:** *Zinc Design* <etownsend@zincdesign.com>

*Dry grass covers the yard in patches  
In the bare spots the earth looks shattered  
Flecks of baked mud roll up at the edges  
The fragile buds of the crab apple have wilted*

*They dangle as hanged men, flaccid and life-less  
Black carpenter bees explore in vain  
Darting from tip to tip, a hopeful frenzy  
Dead things have no sweet secrets*

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**From:** *Daisy Decoster* <ddecoster@richmond.edu>  
**Subject:** *The Corsets*  
**Sent:** *February 17, 2000, 8:26 am*  
**To:** *Messenger* <messenger@richmond.edu>  
**Cc:** *Zinc Design* <etownsend@zincdesign.com>

*hang  
behind glass panes  
and lines of solemn  
stares stacked upon stares  
their eyes suspend like*

*olives  
drift in martinis  
and dilate behind fashion's designs  
on flesh  
ass, face, and legs soon spawned from*

*super-model eggs  
fertilized and dividing  
pinched neatly with smooth bulbous  
explosions  
kept serene and refined*



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