

Silk Magnolias

*I remember years of your life
I'm certain you never will.
Memories carved in me of you
In ways you will never recognize,
Still, the silk and magnolia trees planted*

*I remember when your fingers
were no wider than
the end of an ear swab,
when your nose was no
bigger than a thimble
Still, the silk's growth stalked silently*

*I remember when my little
Lightly lilting lullabies,
Made you fall in the brief breeze
While in my arms, coddled by
A thin sheet of stars and bears
Still, the magnolias had their promenades*

*I remember I was young too,
T-shirts over arms how
Cotton candy engulfs paper branches,
A voice like whistling through grass
Still, the silks too blossomed*

*Flimsy flip-flops flying across,
Beach sand burning
Young soles and skins,
Gingerbread houses,
Cheap costumes, true sleep
Still, the magnolias flowered also*

*I remember the silks and magnolias
In the childhood front yard, from a house
That left its carving in me long ago.
The branches I climbed, the tears I cried
Over the bugs that would die*

Still, the leaves will fall

*I remember all those before you,
Childhood houses long gone,
Clothes given away,
Friends now faded or different,
Parents now older, the same
Smiles but faded behind wooden lines,
Love now more cautious
Still, the silks and magnolias departed*

*Woe to those who can only
Callously call children immature,
Saying that their love and tears
For the faintest of flowers and troubles
Are to be uprooted! The adults of the forest
Who let their leaves fall too early,
Crying from allowing their roots to grow
Too far past to remember*

*Still, however so slightly,
Do I now feel that cold, harsh wind
Decidedly hollowing out my own
Deciduously-designed trunk
Decoratively carved with delicate memories.*

*Still, ever so slightly,
Do the silks and magnolias
Fall from their branches
In the kaleidoscopic beauty of it all,
A child's love is the most heavy of all*