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A Daughter's Wish

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A DAUGHTER'S WISH

If only for a moment
I could be a crisp sliver of
radiant red watermelon
I would remind my mother
of a smile in childhood
and barefoot summers in Iowa,
Teach her
how to expertly curl
the tip of her tongue
behind pursed lips
forming a perfectly puckered "o"
And help her spit out
the seeds of sadness
she collected
one by one.

— *Catherine L. Conway*

APRIL

My daffodils cringe
my bones shake
as dreams of spring
eliminate.

— *Allan Carter*