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Dream (During the Time of Cancer)

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DREAM

(During the Time of Cancer)

I sit against white plaster walls
in the garage under my Grandmother's house
Secure and safe, my childhood sanctuary,
until a squirrel with knowing eyes
approaches, scarab in its mouth.
The stone is dropped in front of me,
but as I reach out to pick it up
I'm bitten.

I scream, hysterically, for help
to catch the squirrel, that may be rabid,
while two shadows stand immobile
by the door.

I run out and catch the squirrel
and squeeze its neck between my hands.
I feel its life spin out
as my thumbs press hard
upon the bones that crack and crumble
beneath my force.
I shiver from this feel of death and know-
I can only count
on me

- MJ Bressler