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POETRY | FALL 2011

## Want/Change

By Caroline Randall Williams

A ladybird at the light moves to it and to it in a static fizz of wanting—  
the promise denied,  
    she rests at the wall,  
        flagellated, and then

moves again to the light, with wanting. Soon she will penetrate  
the plastic shade,  
    and, having reached the light,  
        die of wanting.

The spirit of a change comes in squeezes of effort. It is a trial  
of bent knees  
    and open wills—  
        to turn the dirt,

and plant some other crop, to cultivate corn where there have been potatoes,  
to cultivate generosity  
    where there has been pride—  
        is clean, hard work.

The Indians got on their knees and buried dead fish in the earth to yield up  
good squash,  
    making a fresh harvest  
        where other crops  
            have ceased to thrive.

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**Caroline Randall Williams is a Harvard graduate with a degree in English. As a writer, she is interested in the narrative exploration of the biological, emotional and spiritual elements of womanhood.**

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