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## An offering

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*an offering*  
Eliza Sandra Foli

i peel them off gently  
one by one  
these orange rinds  
these insides long ago dried

i flake with uncertainty  
and crumble at the air's  
soft brush—  
i hand it over

a word in my palm  
sits quietly, well-behaved  
it watches your eyes  
waiting for perception

and my chest heals over  
with time; i don't know why  
i always expect you to give  
a patch back to me

and maybe i should thank you;  
with this practiced pruning i've  
become quite good at growing  
myself.