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# The Miracle: Lullaby for Lost Children

Melanie Rae Thon

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*prayer as story, story as prayer*

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ABOUT

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## The Miracle: Lullaby for Lost Children

*Melanie Rae Thon*

Pink pyrola, trailing daisy—magenta flames of shooting stars,  
brilliant gold of glacier lilies.

*Hush now, beloved.*

The hummingbird comes to sip from foxglove and Sweet William,  
drinks from the hollyhock, opens the snapdragon.

*Why are you afraid?*

The smallest poppies bloom rose and scarlet, surrendering  
themselves to light, waving  
illuminated hearts  
in a bed of violet iris.

*All life is love.*

Bluebirds sing before dawn, as if stars  
shimmer in their throats, and day  
rises from them.

*What more evidence do you need?*

Snow melts into dark earth and here in damp woods white trillium  
blossoms.

*River, cloud, birch, aspen—do you love only what returns love,  
or have you learned to love stone and silence?*

The thrush holds one radiant note so sweet and clear it seems the bird  
will shatter—  
and then it does shatter: into a heart-sparking

ripple of song that echoes tree to tree and leaves the earth trembling.

Melanie Rae Thon's most recent book is the novel *Sweet Hearts*. She is also the author of *Meteors in August* and *Iona Moon*, and the story collections *First, Body and Girls in the Grass*. Her work has been included in *Best American Short Stories* (1995, 1996), three *Pushcart Prize Anthologies* (2003, 2006, 2008), and *O. Henry Prize Stories* (2006). She is also a recipient of a *Whiting Writer's Award* (1997), two fellowships from the *National Endowment for the Arts* (1992 and 2008), a *Writer's Residency* from the *Lannan Foundation* (2005), and a fellowship from the *Tanner Humanities Center* (2009). Originally from Montana, Thon now lives in Salt Lake City, where she teaches in the *Creative Writing and Environmental Humanities* programs at the *University of Utah*.

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