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A Small Thing

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SHARON DOLIN

A Small Thing

one sundazzled blue tulip
stemless almost without
separate petals but not shape-
less if you look carefully paired
with its orange shadow (in the dis-
tance chin-high swaying grasses)
the one you picked and held
before your face for hours
in speechless wonder gigantic
flowerhead of childhood:
the summer your body glowed
with sky and field and mossy pond
it floated in

until you hardly notice the blackened edge
stippled pink until you do