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Author(s): Rachel Waddleton

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Rachel Waddleton



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YOU NEVER EXPECT IT

march crept upon the earth
woken one morning to warm air
sunshine, warm on face,
rejuvenate
like it's the first time.

emerging into fresh air;
it smells like
linens on the line
built up from winter's
stale closet

coming alive again,
colour comes
back to cheeks and chest
this happens every year
and yet
always unexpected,
like the first time he makes you cry.

give grace and understanding
i am still growing
like the lupins

YOU NEVER EXPECT IT

wild, deepening roots
they still die every year
and come back more beautiful

forgive me for when
i become silent in the cold
the lupins in March are
but stems

Biography

Rachel Waddleton is a student at Memorial University, with prospects to graduate in Spring 2026 with majors in both English and Philosophy and then continue her studies in Philosophy. She has been writing creatively her whole life, and has been involved with various music events around St. John's and surrounding area for 10+ years. In the fall of 2025, she was awarded the R. S. "Jimmy" James and Marion Jean James Memorial Scholarship in English for her performance in advanced creative writing in poetry at MUN. The scholarship is awarded to a student with the highest mark in a course that promotes and enhances the study of poetry. She is extremely grateful for the opportunity to now be involved with Janus Unbound and looks forward to discovering the ways she can help contribute to the journal as Poetry Editor, grow as a writer, and connect with other creatives in the city and beyond.