

BONNIE JILL EMANUEL

Flashback with Paper Birch and Rock Garden

for & after Cynthia Cruz

Then the ambulances arrive screaming.
I'm disguised as a marigold—
And stood under the lush of a white-barked tree.
The day with its kingdom of bees
& scary flowerbed ring-necked snake.
An empty box of Good & Plenty
trampled in peat & sugar ants.
They suctioned my mother's stomach
& wheeled her away.
How I twisted
to the sun, how I stood.
How I glittered my exquisite orange
sorrow in the moss.

**Ruminate
Magazine**