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## Weather

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Sometimes, swimming, you are also immersed in fire.  
Ash coats your wet hair and the sun has been stolen,  
replaced by an orange ball shaken to glow.

Ash in your lungs as you dive and a tree falls.  
“We’ll be safe here,” your nephew calls  
as he jumps in. How fast are you aging?

Ash fills the lines on your face like stage makeup;  
the dog can no longer see her feet through water  
so will not come out to you. Yelps from the rocky edge.

Yodels for you to get out or because she wants to get in.  
Heat escalates, smoke in your skin, in the boy’s hair.  
Clouds are not clouds. Air a barrier you dive through to water.

Later, you will drive south, rub soot into your now dry skin,  
lick your lips pink again. Through the fast window, trees now husks  
tarnish what light is left: the incandescent shoots of spring.

**YVONNE BLOMER** is the Poet Laureate of Victoria, BC. Her most recent books are *Sugar Ride: Cycling from Hanoi to Kuala Lumpur* (Palimpsest Press, 2017) and *Refugium: Poems for the Pacific* (editor, Caitlin Press, 2017). She is the winner of the Overleaf Chapbook Contest 2017 for her collection *Elegies for Earth* and has published three books of poetry, most recently *As if a Raven* (Palimpsest Press, 2014). In 2018, Yvonne will be part of a show at The Bateman Centre of poems in response to Robert Bateman’s paintings.