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## Fungi Moves, Night Crawler, Tree Futures

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## Fungi Moves

Deciduous pincers close in over winter. Tulips push  
against earth knot, fangs break surface. Origami folds rise  
into March light. Narcissi spy with their yellow eye.  
Dark-rooted grip lifts a dogwood arc above the brick.  
Pink blossoms rain down dandruff in premature spring.  
Kitty corner, vampiristic yard tree chomps to join  
corseted sugar maples that hint of reddish stance.  
Mats of Kentucky bluegrass creep along southern border,  
annex mycelium strands to weave a secret glucose code.  
Dense nutrient shuttle deep below grinds undeterred by  
orderly peony plugs that will shake and shake come April.

## **Night Crawlers**

Roseate snow billows into storm  
willow weeps rings of Saturn dissolve

moon light spills out of the glassless bay window  
downward, downward, bores magic into the ground.

My footstep hits hard, dies buzzy in kneecap's hollow,  
worms faint into femur head. Hard stop. Arrest.

Worm tunnels freeze to stiff pockets beneath,  
beetle carapaces folded to deep winter tent.

Crawl energy zaps a house-height beneath me,  
no rain, no snow, no wind, no sun, no hail, no fog

lights worm cavern, winter vacuum beneath slime.  
Sleep in the winter, ball in jellied umbra,

bind us deep down, fix nitrogen, seed soils,  
claps hard memories of liquid Earthen spring.

## Tree Futures

Weep viscous tears to smear across  
this small tin and fretwork starship,

my garden's new delight. Dear pine,  
arms stretched to breaking point

in ballet pose, cradle this new star  
shot hope, weep to smother hair-cracks

with resin. Just yesterday, a mosquito  
tree-touched for a suck. The pierced

pale bubble welled up, grabbed foot hook,  
launched over swollen abdomen,

tiny wings stilled to petrify the flight.  
Dear pine, lay down your rotten bones.

I cleave them with this murder axe,  
launch into skies a sacrifice to burn so bright

against the crescent moon.

**PETRA KUPPERS** is a disability culture activist, a writer, and a community performance artist. Her fourth poetry collection, *Diver Beneath the Street*, investigates true crime and ecopoetry at the level of the soil (Wayne State University Press, 2024). Kuppers latest academic book is *Eco Soma: Joy and Pain in Speculative Performance Encounters* (University of Minnesota Press, 2022, open access). She teaches at the University of Michigan and is a 2023 Guggenheim Fellow.