
POETRY | FALL 2019

An Explanation of Sorts

By Michele Parker Randall

So you can see without seeing
why in that moment, years ago,
when you sat next to me & spoke
words of love & friendship, & I can't
remember your words very well—
I can recall my hair was much darker,
shorter, & I was dressed in black,
but with complete clarity, I remember
pulling away from your touch: See,
at any moment my history unfurls
behind me, uncurls, becomes wings,
brazen; they flutter and snap; symptoms
blare in red & blue, to the ends, flare
& fade & blacken until they fly colossal
in an unavoidable spectacle unleashed
by just the grasping of my hand. See?

Michele Parker Randall is the author of *Museum of Everyday Life* (Kelsay Books 2015). Her poetry has appeared or is forthcoming in *Nimrod International Journal*, *Atlanta Review*, *Bellevue Literary Review*, and elsewhere. She teaches at Stetson University.

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