

BAMBOO RIDGE WRITING JAM

Spring Equinox



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They are not empty
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A Short Story of Falling

by Alice Oswald

It is the story of the falling rain
to turn into a leaf and fall again

it is the secret of a summer shower
to steal the light and hide it in a flower

and every flower a tiny tributary
that from the ground flows green and momentary

is one of water's wishes and this tale
hangs in a seed-head smaller than my thumbnail

if only I a passerby could pass
as clear as water through a plume of grass

to find the sunlight hidden at the tip
turning to seed a kind of lifting rain drip

then I might know like water how to balance
the weight of hope against the light of patience

water which is so raw so earthy-strong
and lurks in cast-iron tanks and leaks along

drawn under gravity towards my tongue
to cool and fill the pipe-work of this song

which is the story of the falling rain
that rises to the light and falls again

Source: Poetry Foundation



Kāne'ohe Town

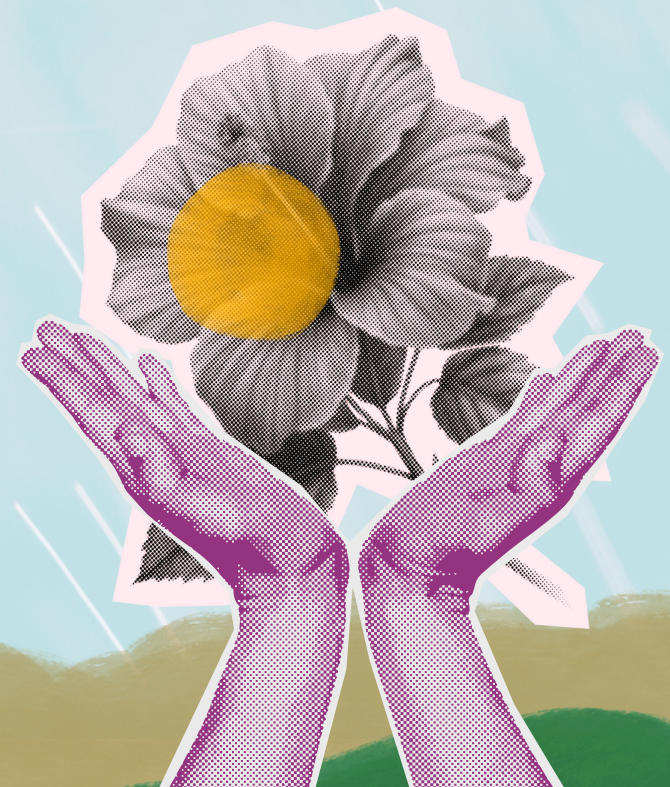
by Donald Carreira Ching

from his new collection *Blood Work and Other Stories* (coming June 2025)

Outside, sour notes of rotting mango. You walk. Fresh grass clippings and sun-bleached 'ulu leaves clustered along the curb, damp and moist. You can't see it. Charcoal burning, savory and sweet from the Korean barbecue. Further down, tobacco lingers. Then, the choke of exhaust like burnt oil in your father's garage. On the ground, plumeria petals, bright and fleeting. From over the hill, ammonia? Bleach? Pungent and chemical. Soon, others pass. One like rose, heady and overwhelming. You continue until a wall of earthy brush, milo and kukui. The breeze comes again, bringing rain. The Native Hawaiians have a name for this one, Pō'aihala. Find a way home.

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Spring Inspired Prompts

- **Metamorphosis:** Write about a character's "caterpillar to butterfly" moment—when something small sparks a quiet transformation.
- **Conversations with the Sun:** Imagine the sun as a character who's just returned from winter vacation. Write a dialogue between the sun and a curious human or animal or the moon.
- **Balancing Act:** Inspired by the day/night balance of the equinox, write about a character balancing two opposing desires.



Spring Inspired Prompts

- **Spring Renewal:** What makes you feel renewed? Write about that activity, place, person, etc.
- **Showers Bring Flowers:** Spring is often associated with new growth and rain. What do you think of when you think of rain? What emotions come up? What memories?
- **Subtle Signs:** What are signs of spring in Hawai'i? How do the people of Hawai'i experience spring uniquely?
- **React to the readings** and write about rain.



Mahalo!

Please share your feedback & check out Bamboo Shoots Writing Contest!

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