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## Meena Alexander

## Lago di Como

I search for a stone to sit on, So I can look down into a valley and write lines about a house I enter to find you.

I try to keep walking but after the storm branches flood the path, make me squint and crouch.

What I cannot peer through is memory, a girl in a rosebush thighs stuck with petals, scratch marks scarcely visible.

What floats into view is a door I cannot go through. But I want to go on and on until I reach you.

At the threshold of the house I imagine fishhooks tethered to sunlight, an old shirt hanging on a line.

It is after your bath, your hair is wet and you are in front of an oval mirror, rimmed in silver.

You are combing your hair. O for an afternoon, eyes wide open, filled with the moisture of love.