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Follow-up
By Isabelle Carmichael

i remember a book from my childhood
where a boy compared
love to lemons,
black citrus squeezed into one's eyes.

i saw love through rose-colored lenses,
the world all pink, floating, serene
chance after chance given
because those blatant red flags
were just flags
waving in the wind.

i wish love was like lemons, like he said
no colors
just quick, painful darkness done
not these rose-colored lenses
because all the pigments pick up to be
you.