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## The Vernal Pool

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The Rose and The Poppy

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**The Rose and The Poppy**  
By Adrianna Puente

I am  
not a ravishing ruby red,  
or a semblance of purity white.  
Not the flower you give to a lover,  
or a token of comfort you give to a friend in the hospital.  
Nor am I a symbol of romance -  
of new moments to be made,  
of old memories to be cherished.  
Though I am not a beautiful rouge,  
Buds picked to be set onto a bed of down and wine;

I am  
wild in fields of green and blues.  
Electric orange-  
like tangerines in an orchard of trees,  
my skin's perfume meshed  
in the summer breeze.

Most times I am forgotten.  
Rarely chosen for  
eager hands on Valentine's day -  
but I am my own.

In a potpourri of our colors  
we each wilt between dried petals -  
scenting rooms with our fragrance.

Rotting into umber.