

Summer 2014wonFall-Winter 2013-14She peaceSummer-Fall 2013the c a dowSpring-Summer 2013strem that jWinter-Spring 2013Moth she pFall-Winter 2012-2013Moth she pSummer-Fall 2012beetil ties hSpring-Summer 2012on th untilWinter-Spring 2012on th untilAutumn/Winter 2011-12Moth so itSummer 2011differ toweWinter/Spring 2011napk at equAutumn/Winter 2011Moth so itSummer 2010so or se to co GoodWinter 2010on sping to co gor se spring 2010Kummer 2010on sping to co GoodWinter 2010on sping to co GoodWinter 2010on sping to co GoodWinter 2010on sping to co GoodWinter 2010on ly smilliAutumn 2009Moth Summer 2009	a doorl
Summer-Fall 2013 Shie peac Summer-Fall 2013 the c a down strem that j Winter-Spring 2013 cheer Fall-Winter 2012-2013 Moth She p Summer-Fall 2012 beet Spring-Summer 2012 on th until Winter-Spring 2012 so it Autumn/Winter 2011-12 Moth T-sh Summer 2011 differ towe Winter/Spring 2011 napk at equ Autumn/Winter 2011 Summer 2010 abso or se Spring 2010 to co Good Winter 2010 only smilii Autumn 2009 Moth Summer 2009	n releas n a battl
Summer-Fall 2013the c a dowSpring-Summer 2013strem that jWinter-Spring 2013cheeFall-Winter 2012-2013Moth she pSummer-Fall 2012beetil ties hSpring-Summer 2012on th untilWinter-Spring 2012on th untilAutumn/Winter 2011-12Moth T-shi ordeSummer 2011Moth differ toweWinter/Spring 2011napk at eqAutumn/Winter 2011Moth differ toweSummer 2010Spring 2010Winter 2010Moth abso or seeSpring 2010to co GoodWinter 2010only smiliiAutumn 2009Moth Summer 2009	does t
Spring-Summer 2013strem that Winter-Spring 2013Fall-Winter 2012-2013Moth she pSummer-Fall 2012beetl ties hSpring-Summer 2012on th until Winter-Spring 2012Autumn/Winter 2011-12Moth Summer 2011Summer 2011Moth differ towe napk at equilibrium Spring 2010Summer 2010Spring 2010Winter 2010Moth differ towe mapk at equilibrium Summer 2010Summer 2010Moth sonitSummer 2010Moth differ towe mapk 	offendi
Winter-Spring 2013CheeFall-Winter 2012-2013Moth she pSummer-Fall 2012beetil ties hSpring-Summer 2012on th until Winter-Spring 2012Autumn/Winter 2011-12Moth T-sh order differ toweWinter/Spring 2011napk at eqAutumn/Winter 2011Summer 2011Summer 2010or se Spring 2010Spring 2010to co GoodWinter 2010only smilli Autumn 2009Moth Summer 2009Moth Summer 2009	ngth in piece o
Summer-Fall 2012she pointSpring-Summer 2012on the untilWinter-Spring 2012so itAutumn/Winter 2011-12Mother T-shill or de untilSummer 2011Unter/Spring 2011Winter/Spring 2011napke at equilibriumAutumn/Winter 2011Mother absolutionSummer 2010Spring 2010Spring 2010to consetWinter 2010only smilliAutumn 2009Mother absolution	ese: all
Summer-Fall 2012beet ties h on th until 	her is d plants
Spring-Summer 2012on the until so itWinter-Spring 2012Moth T-shi 	tle, mai her sho
Winter-Spring 2012Moth T-sh order differ 	he liqui I it snap
Autumn/Winter 2011-12T-sh order differ toweSummer 2011differ 	t knows
Summer 2011 differ Winter/Spring 2011 napk at eq Autumn/Winter 2011 Summer 2010 abso or se Spring 2010 to co Good Winter 2010 only smilli Autumn 2009 Moth Summer 2009	her has hirts fold
Winter/Spring 2011napk at eqAutumn/Winter 2011Moth abso or seSummer 2010abso or seSpring 2010to co Good Winter 2010Winter 2010only smiliAutumn 2009Moth Summer 2009	ered by erent-sh
Autumn/Winter 2011 Summer 2010 Spring 2010 Winter 2010 Winter 2010 Autumn 2009 Moth Summer 2009	els in th kins ov
Summer 2010 abso or se Spring 2010 to co Good Winter 2010 only smili Autumn 2009 Moth Summer 2009	qual ar
Spring 2010 to co Good Winter 2010 only smilii Autumn 2009 Moth Summer 2009	her can olutely;
Winter 2010 only smili Autumn 2009 Moth Summer 2009	erve sli ook the
Autumn 2009 Moth Summer 2009	/ after l'
Summer 2009	
0	her wo
Spring 2009 Sui	Imme

Two Poems

by Emily Strauss

Mother Would

Mother pushes buttons in a special way: elevators, adding machines, crosswalk signals, a long fierce holding for special emphasis like a doorbell held to show impatience ringing half a minute through an empty house then released with a triumph of mastery, having won a battle a mere stab would never evince.

She does the same dropping a bit of rotten peach into the kitchen sink, not just setting the offending matter down but hurling it, a downward flick of the wrist with a pitcher's strength in a show of disgust— mashing that piece of fat, lettuce shank, slice of moldy cheese: all get the same offended treatment.

Mother is definite about everything she plants each leg, watch out if you are a slow beetle, mauls the door handle when she leaves, ties her shoes so tight they yelp, pumps the handle on the liquid soap fiercely, stretches that dish cloth until it snaps, throws the apple core into the trash so it knows it can't come back out.

Mother has her ways: determined, precise— T-shirts folded with military precision, books ordered by size and type, skirts organized by color, different-shaped pastas each in their glass bottle, towels in thirds on the rack, magazines like cocktail napkins overlapping on the table, throw pillows at equal angles in each corner of the sofa.

Mother can hug me fiercely or ignore me absolutely; buy me special blackberry tarts or serve sliced tomatoes for dinner, forgetting to cook the rice, sew beautiful quilts and wear Goodwill T-shirts, remember her hearing aids only after I've shouted until my throat hurts, smiling guiltily and rummaging in her tool drawer.

Mother wonders why I visit once a year.

Summer Growth

Autumn 2008	I had forgotten how rounded I have become:	
Summer 2008	fleshy, soft, curved like grassy hills	
Spring/Summer 2008	rolling up to the sky, or lines sketched quickly to indicate ample stomach and thighs in a weekend figure-drawing class,	
Winter/Spring 2008		
	until I looked in the mirror at the patina	
Editor's Note	lining the copper basin that is me;	
Guidelines	maybe I could become a grand tree,	
Contact	an oak or madrone, giving off heat and autumn scents, spreading with time	
Contact	growing thick trunks, the only shade for miles	
	on those wavering yellowed hills,	
	ample enough for the afternoon moon	
	wan and pale as an invalid spinster	
	to hide among my leaves and branches.	

Emily Strauss has an M.A. in English, but is self-taught in poetry, which she has written since college Nearly 300 of her poems appear in a wide variety of online venues and in anthologies, in the U.S. and abroad. The natural world is generally her framework; she also considers the stories of people and places around her and personal histories. She is a semi-retired teacher living in California.

Copyright 2015, © Emily Strauss. This work is protected under the U.S. copyright laws. It may not be reproduced, reprinted, reused, or altered without the expressed written permission of the author.