

1991

## Lilies; Petunias

Marc Darnell

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## LILIES

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*Marc Darnell*

I want to learn their kill-power,  
their ability to injure the admirer.  
That method by which their orange burns me—  
I will never know it completely.  
If I cut their heads and placed them on water,  
waiting for them to peel open even wider and cry out,  
they still would not tell, but drown with a hush.  
They have not learned the ability to scream.

## PETUNIAS

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I envy their talent to give birth in the cold  
while others have given in  
and allowed their eggs to shrivel.  
There must be one sheltered vein among them—  
I walk through their channels to find this mother  
and sense her spilling of children  
is her compensation for the void around her,  
her drive into the night.