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# One Blue Flag

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## One Blue Flag · *Linda Pastan*

One blue flag  
is the only color left  
on the frozen lake.  
If the water was blue once  
the color has been leached  
out of it.  
If the flag was once red  
it was in another dream,  
another country.  
For blue is the color I know best:  
it stares back at me from mirrors;  
I lie gazing up at it;  
and when the lake melts  
I will swim submerged  
only in blue . . .

Only . . .  
That word  
has so much longing in it:  
if only I had done things  
differently;  
it's only me.  
And what does only long for?  
A flag perhaps,  
that piece of brave cloth  
that needs only  
the smallest breeze  
to give it hope,  
even alone —  
one blue flag.