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# Lessons In Sacrifice

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BRANDI GEORGE

LESSONS IN SACRIFICE

*Let's say you're a bridge operator                      Mother lectures  
you lift for ships      lower for trains      I'm the only one  
in first grade                      when your son catches his coat  
in the gears              whose fingers form the Vulcan sign  
for live long and prosper              you must drop the bridge  
and crush him              so I make little spring bunnies  
saving hundreds              by dipping my hands in paint  
Mother says                      a Witness is chased by soldiers  
as self-punishment              for forgetting they symbolize  
Easter      there's a river      too wide to cross      I walk  
barefoot through thistles              yet he says "Jehovah"  
stand in the dark basement for hours              and leaps  
to safety      the clouds thunder              whoever sins  
against Him                      will be erased from the book*