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ALISON PRYER

dandelion (for William)

in my petrified womb
 layers of pain have sedimented
 into this unyielding fist of muscle –
 uterine fibroid,
 doctors call it.
 but this means nothing
 to you,
 little dandelion,
 you know only life,
 only love,
 and push past that ball of concrete
 as if it were earth gentled
 by fragrant rain.
 the merest of human beings,
 each of your petals is a sunburst radiating
 from the pulsing of your ten week
 old heart.

Alison Pryer, PhD has taught in Germany, Japan, Egypt, and Canada. Her work has appeared in numerous North American and international academic and literary journals.