

How Slowly

Sherre Vernon

*What magical denial
shall my life utter
to bring itself forth?*

—Denise Levertov, “Living Alone III”

Cloth napkins on Halloween, loaded
into a U-haul and out again. We lost ourselves
somewhere in the city—

you weren't well.
What shotgun, what jump! but then

I didn't stay. We talked too short. Like
that. Blood in the morning, a memoir,
powerless, like Christ-name.

A lesser leaving.
After your ashes, I remembered.

Sherre Vernon (she/her/hers) is a seeker of a mystical grammar and a recipient of the Parent-Writer Fellowship at The Martha's Vineyard Institute of Creative Writing. She has two award-winning chapbooks: *Green Ink Wings* (fiction) and *The Name is Perilous* (poetry). Readers describe Sherre's work as heartbreaking, richly layered, lyrical and intelligent. To read more of her work visit www.sherrevernon.com/publications and tag her into conversation [@sherrevernon](https://twitter.com/sherrevernon).