

The cover features a scenic photograph of several colorful hot air balloons floating over a calm pond. The balloons are in various colors, including blue, red, yellow, and purple. The pond's surface is still, creating clear reflections of the balloons and the surrounding greenery. In the foreground, there are lush green plants with small white flowers. The background shows a line of trees and a clear sky.

# Freshwater Literary Journal

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**The subway**

We parted on the platform's  
steps descending east and west  
but at the bottom of the stair  
across the gutted bed  
we paralleled each other one more time.

I wanted to reach Union  
so we had to split apart,  
like a chance-told secret that divides.

I caught your eye, we signalled  
one another's presence.  
Bows, curtsies, namastes,  
then stillness and alertness.

You raised your voice  
and shouted, This is like a movie.  
One of us will see the other's train,  
then commotion, like when  
the universe was formed!  
Then a ledge emptier  
than one that was always empty.

In a movie the lovers  
leap onto the tracks  
and run to meet each other.

It came when we had met  
each other's eyes and looked away.  
I saw you through a dozen windows,  
then a door, then not at all.

To think I stood beside you  
when you loved me,

and you loved me,  
and I didn't know.