

Boronia Megastigma

Family Rutaceae; related to lemons, oranges, all citrus.

i.

close to the ground
its flowers are little bells
nuns carrying golden lemons beneath dark brown folds
incense seeping over brackish puddles
what's left of winter's sandy swamps

a bag full of rubbed limes, fresh tea, cut grass
freesias *over there!*

ii

my brother remembers our old man
stopping the Austin truck
on the way back from Dumbacup
to pick boronia

a glimpse into Gaetano's gentle side

iii

the de Medici collected citrus
a dynasty of terracotta pots on the terraces
the scent of lemon
heightened pleasure

grafts still grow at Villa di Castello

iv

something to do on a Sunday afternoon
an outing in your boyfriend's FJ
us sisters in our cotton blouses

suddenly the perfume through the open window
we shouted *stop the car*

then the house full
of our springtime bullion citral scent
humming with sun
fat vase in the kitchen

the glamour of sprigs on dressing tables
the hoarding –pressed into stale pages of *The Home Doctor*

v

months later
falling from between the leaves
four petals flattened to black shadows
gold muted now

like so many de Medici portraits–
a silhouette of
all that arousal