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White Linen

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White Linen

Mary Dengler

The leaves are gold
Again and red and brown
Again and lying
On the ground
Again or falling
Like lost souls
In Dante's hell
Again, unlike
The staunch perennials,
Gone from pinks and golds
To somber brown
To resurrect in spring,
Or healthy evergreens
Who stand their ground
In winter, wearing robes
Of silver white or
Linen flowers in my lacquered pot
That never change—because
They've never lived.