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## Deciduous

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*Francesca Bell*

**DECIDUOUS**

I want to be the tree  
when cold has come,

after rain has run  
like lovers' fingers down

my thick body, and my leaves  
have burst into burning.

I want to glow like embers  
that are the fire dying,

growing hotter and hotter  
until it's gone.

I want my branching  
darkness exposed

by the wind's  
transparent insistence

as it pulls, piece by piece,  
my bright raiment off.

I want to feel what's next  
curled tight as fists inside me.