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## Ordinary Time

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### Ordinary Time

When the dead  
stay down, and the scarab no longer  
resembles Beelzebub,

but reverts to pure beetle—  
signifying nothing—

and no incense burns  
but citronella in jars, though *myrrh*,  
*myrrh* is heard  
from the vibrating throats  
of warblers.

The cruciform hawk eases  
into our lives  
without passion, circling an unkempt  
and untroubled garden.

*Paula Bohince*

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PAULA BOHINCE is the author of three poetry collections, most recently *Swallows and Waves* (Sarabande, 2016). Her poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Poetry*, *Best American Poetry*, and elsewhere. She lives in Pennsylvania.