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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

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.