

# For they shall be comforted

by [Tania Runyan](#) in the [July 28, 2009](#) issue

This oak took its bad news to the heart.  
Lightning struck two springs ago  
as I snored between my flashing walls.

Now scallops of orange fungus layer  
the fissured bark. Spider sacs trailing  
ragged webs streak the splinters like comets.

I have lost someone. Her eyes flash  
among the decaying leaves. I hear  
her small hands fluttering in the creek.

*Grieve me*, she calls. *Split your heart*  
*with my face*. There is nothing else  
I can do. I pull up a broken branch. I sit.