

February

by [Jean Janzen](#) in the [February 24, 2004](#) issue

Fig tree dominates the garden,
gray and knobby against gray fog,
its bare branches grotesque.

Like the old, bent parishioners
my father would visit, taking me
along, a child. They stroked
my hands, my woolen dress,
reached out with cloudy eyes.

This tree reaches everywhere,
as though light can be caught.
Slow sun drains through, stirs
a wing. Then one morning
I see them, green tips of figs
hard as emeralds escaping
from every knuckled grasp.