

## Leaves

by [Lynn Domina](#) in the [December 6, 2017](#) issue

I have been thinking  
about the difference between tradition  
and cliché,  
and about my father,  
how each December he placed a classic red poinsettia  
in my mother's hands, every year the same  
gold foil wrapping the planter, the same  
deep green leaves, and about how lately  
I bring one home, experimenting once  
with the white variant which was not white  
but a sallow depleted beige.  
I have been thinking about repetition's  
assurance, regular  
as a heartbeat, its soothing familiarity  
until it stops  
and a man falters,  
drops, not petal  
by dry petal, but fully,  
suddenly, gone.