

Peonies

by [Sarah Rossiter](#) in the [August 2024](#) issue

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Full-bosomed blossoms
shiver in the jade green
bowl, cream-colored
petals, rose-tipped,
soft as skin between
the fingers, drop
suddenly like water
breaking, such quick
release as if they know
there's nothing to hold
on to, that everything
in time lets go, making
room for what comes
next.