

L I S A   G R A Y   F I S H E R

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## A Walk in the Park

You would have loved walking in this park with me, the deep green-gilded woods under whose spell I fell like a child. No wonder Red Riding Hood went astray; it's hard to stay on course when the trees shimmer an invitation so enticing. I'd say the wolf was an after-thought. And no wonder you fled here when the bombs laid waste to Dresden, of which no sign remains in the swelling green. It was natural to feel the trees would save you, a protective web so rich in age and root. Ahead, a fairytale bird calls. My dreams of flying are the easy rise, arms wide releasing me into the invisibility of sky I navigate alone in ecstasy, the same sky that hurled annihilation by bomb and blaze upon those seeking shelter amid the combustible refuge of trees: the park turned inferno. Walking here now, decades beyond the flat black massacre, you would have marveled at how trees overgrow our little histories, wedded to forbearance by steadfast rings of accord. We are always welcome here, for respite, tryst, haven, solace to fly, to flee, toward and away from the realms of memory.

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Lisa Gray Fisher's debut novel, *Full Body Wag*, was reissued in 2015. Her poems, short fiction, and essays have appeared in a variety of journals. She served as chair of the English department at Santa Fe Preparatory School for twenty years. Her mother, Ursula Gray, survived the bombing of Dresden, on which this poem is based.