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Anniversary Roses

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Anniversary Roses

Alissa Riling

My roses are slowly dying,
the petals are changing
from red
to purple
to black.
The ferns are next
I think.
The baby's breath will surely follow,
falling away and scattering
shriveled white beads
on the table.

Dead roses belong in the trash.

My roses are slowly dying,
their pungent smell
reminds me that they still hold on.
It permeates the room.

The flower shop bow
still hangs bright and fluffy,
never following the dying
blossoms.

The water is starting to turn
pale green like tornado skies.
The stems try to suck life
out of the discoloring deep
without much success.

Dead roses belong in the trash.