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**Salford**  
MANCHESTER

## The failure of perfume

Hurley, UK

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## **On Death**

The stink of its approach is  
prickly and delightful.

It could all end with a housebreak  
or a pre-dawn naked amble  
down river, in the river;

or a monoxious hose,  
his hand in mine.

I hope not. Hope is weak  
and nothing stronger than hope.

by Tamara Fulcher

## **Choices**

arsonist child minder  
teaching us kids  
to strike it  
and eat it  
and hold it there  
witholding control

years later she married

a man full of fear  
of fire

by Dee McMahon

## **The Failure of Perfume**

intolerably crimson  
black-creased petals  
fallen on a hot tarmac path  
gathered and pressed until  
cell-walls ruptured  
and smeared oily carrion upon  
chipolata fingers  
stuffed into jam jars topped  
up with tap water  
stolen by succubae  
to leave brown matter  
wafing gently under  
a ceiling of grey scum

by Ursula Hurley