

BEA THREW ME A CURVE

By Marilyn Deane Mendell

I can't spell
I can't even read
I failed English classes
And now
You want me to learn the Latin
Names
Start in Spring.
Just one
Just one at first
Mertensia Virginica
It rolls right off your tongue
Bluebells a wild native
Like you
One a year
Maybe I could learn two
Go by seasons
You walk in the woods every day
Obolaria Virginica Pennywort
Just learn the Virginia ones
Cheating only one word to learn
Dyslexia isn't a stop sign look at it
like you look at the plant's details
Scrub pine there's an easy one
Pinus Virginiana
Fall came
Hamamelis Virginiana Witch Hazel
And so it went until
I wasn't counting
Anymore.