Carl Rakosi

ABSTRACTIONS ON A CHILD

SIXTEENTH CENTURY

A fairy magnitude
of the order of nul

a distillation
no bigger than a tear drop.

I am not trying
to pass these lines off as my own.
They just flew out
of my memory.
I thought them worth keeping
so I pinned them through
the title for all to look at
in theoretical time
like a butterfly,
specimen identified.

Shall I be honest with you?
I had intended to write
about my granddaughters
but this was as close as I could come.

University of Iowa
is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve, and extend access to
The Iowa Review
www.jstor.org