

CHOI JEONG RYE

It Was Just a Brief Flash

In the dream
I couldn't find the entrance
Like a leaf swaying outside the window
It was a brief flash

A peony was printed on a wall I've seen before
The vines constantly curving over and over

I went there to rent a room
And then I followed a man shuffling in his slippers
I simply stepped inside

Like a goldfish moving dreamily in its bowl
I paced for a short time

I've been told I lived with him for dozens of years
He is not my husband
Not my father
Not my son

Like a leaf outside the window,
Someone was
Waving his hands
It was just a brief flash

Translated from the Korean by Melissa Dickey