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Spring 2021

### Deathtrap

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Traylor, Blake. "Deathtrap" (2021). *Vázquez-Valarezo Poetry Award*.

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## Deathtrap

Are you one of those people who stands  
right in front of the door, always assuming  
the elevator will be empty for you? I have  
become one of those who reads  
the certificate of inspection  
framed on the wall so I know  
    who to haunt when the cables finally  
    snap—But this is a hydraulic elevator,  
    my friend, the physics major, told me.  
He isn't here, in this tiny jostling room. It's just  
me and some stranger whose face resembles  
a stress ball. As I think this to myself, all that  
anchors me is the firmness  
of an orange clutched in my  
pocket. Things have been up  
    in the air lately, and I'm only 5'7", after all,  
    and I just can't understand that there are  
    people who live as though the world isn't  
falling down,  
whose eyes  
aren't ready  
    to melt from their heads, whose brains  
    aren't as dense as cherubized angelfood  
    cake, whose last memory won't be as sad  
as wondering what it would mean to be as loved as somebody's  
colorless half-eaten sandwich left to melt on its own  
little tarnished snowbank, an artifact  
of someone's discarded  
struggle to  
care.  
But  
the doors  
open, and now I can see  
you answering my question.