

We Were Not Consulted

Anita Tanner

We couldn't say
the yes that would loosen
our grip, tutoring us
in doing without.
Some things were simply snatched away.

We also don't recall being asked
about our birth,
what raw materials,
which cells
would fashion our identity.

We certainly couldn't claim
the timing of our death
nor the means
of our taking leave.
These things were not offered

for our choosing
So we dig in,
learning to unearth
our own happening,
upturning the soil

until our fingers feel
the under tendril-crawling
and our eyes decide
the leafy
turning toward.