

Count it all as loss

by [Tania Runyan](#) in the [July 25, 2012](#) issue

All of it: children whistling ryegrass,  
my husband rubbing my back

in his sleep. Consider rubbish the sun  
climbing the eye of Delicate Arch,

the scent of popped-open coffee.  
Leave it behind, pleads the scourge-

scarred Paul. Lay it down and rise.  
But even loss is hard to count as loss.

This morning frost has leathered  
the nasturtium, but I cannot endure

ripping the haloes of leaves from their pot.  
The astilbe, once a lavender mist

in my window, burns toward winter,  
seed heads trembling like the hands

of an old charismatic. Maybe in heaven  
I will remember the March I buried

those bare roots around the base of the oak  
and brooded about some sin or another

holding me fast in the mud, spring  
the only unseen I could bear to believe.