

And Despite Everything,

by [Barbara Crooker](#) in the [May 2024](#) issue

in this hard year where I lost it all and more,
here comes May, which is more than I deserve,
dripping in lilacs and bleeding hearts
against a grass so green, it takes your breath away.
And I still have breath, pink lungs to send it in and out,
a heart that's still beating in spite of itself, and skin
that feels blessed to be caressed by this sun-kissed
wind, this cloudless day.