

## Peonies

by [Sarah Rossiter](#) in the [August 2024](#) issue

Full-bosomed blossoms  
shiver in the jade green  
bowl, cream-colored  
petals, rose-tipped,  
soft as skin between  
the fingers, drop  
suddenly like water  
breaking, such quick  
release as if they know  
there's nothing to hold  
on to, that everything  
in time lets go, making  
room for what comes  
next.