

Wilderness House Literary Review 17/2

Christina E. Petrides
"Saving and Spending"

As a child I watched my grandmama
carefully paint half-open lips
with a slender sable brush,
dabbing cream from a mostly empty tube.
This doodlebug economy carried over from her youth
of handsewn floral flour sack dresses
modeled on pictures from Sears & Roebuck catalogs.
Hands shaking, she still smooths torn foil flat
and wipes it down to cover scraps
from huge meals she cooks—Thanksgiving every day—
her lifetime savings lavished all on others.

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“Tampa Tanka”

A tight flock of pink
flamingoes walks together,
the webbed feet raindrops
splashing active red puddles
on grassy Florida sand.

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"Fear"

Fear is a migraine,
throbbing nausea inside
bending the furniture,
making light unbearable.

Fear enervates and stabs,
willing you to swallow poison
to achieve painlessness
and peace of mind.