

## A Poem by Carol Hamilton

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### Like the Surprise of Spring

Forgotten familiar I've always said  
that unsettling sense  
a severed umbilical cord  
for siblings long apart, met again  
Mid-afternoon when we all rested  
my brother always came  
to see what I was doing  
It was the Millennium  
so I flew south to share  
his first days of retirement  
It was before his cancer  
and all the visits then  
The air wavered with recognition  
so slight that only scientists  
with the most sensitive instruments  
could detect the altered pulse  
I was translating poetry  
a befuddlement to him  
his look like the one I remember  
when blood gushed from my head  
He dropped a rock, imitating  
us older ones who knelt  
to bomb innocent ants  
No cruelty is intended  
in any of these ruptures  
Spring, too, soon ends

**Carol Hamilton** has recent publications in *Louisiana Review*, *Pontiac Review*, *Sanskrit Literary-Arts Magazine*, *Poet Lore*, *Limestone*, *Louisiana Literature*, *Poem*, *All Roads Lead You Home*, *The Aurorean* and

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