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## Lamprocapnos spectabilis

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# Lamprocapnos spectabilis

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**Author Bio**

Victoria Reynolds is a senior at Gettysburg College. She is an English Literature major with a concentration in Creative Writing, and is an Italian Studies Minor. She is from Flourtown, Pennsylvania. She has a bad habit of collecting delicious teas and never drinking them.

# Lamprocapnos spectabilis

Victoria J. Reynolds

You were born in August,  
five months after spring cycles back,  
and our favorite flower was the bleeding heart,  
the “lady-in-a-bath,”  
with its arching sprays  
of heart-shaped buds  
unable to pick themselves up,  
like your neck and head in the last days.  
Your head, a heady stem tipped forward  
towards the earth we would bury you in.  
It was spring ephemeral,  
just like you, with your withering leaves.  
You mimicked it, and  
died down to your fibrous roots  
as soon as summer fell away.  
You disappeared by the close of the year  
with snow falling onto our wooden floors  
and a gold and ruby coverlet  
pulled up over what was left of you.  
I still dig in the garden,  
hoping to find a root,  
a rhizome, one bulb left of you.