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## Beautiful Lesson of the I

Frances Brent

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## FIRE IN THE DOLL'S HOUSE

The paper house ignites  
with an alchemist's bellows.

Golden-finned, arched, dying, re-aroused,  
encircling every human and thimble-sized object—

*Love, with the tiniest, red torch branded to your heart—  
will you come now?*

Blood blooms lie decked on the mounted beams,  
devouring the scabs of tissue roses.

They follow the crumb paths  
through little halls and rooms

no larger than the width of a child's hand:  
tablets for worms, baskets for a litter of mice,

gnats swim in the pool  
of a toy teacup—

Inside the sleeping tents,  
vapor unwinds the dolls from the dolls' beds.

Acid    ash    snowcloud  
little white sails.