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Beautiful Lesson of the I

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ROSE

In the notebook, the rose
is a vortex of lines, curls
on a wounded gray skull.

But, in the garden,
it is red velvet,
gold sewn thriftily at the center.

A finger-sized hole
bores through the outspread folds
like a cigarette burn.

When I turn back the petals,
I uncover the silver, jeweled beetle.