

# Stand (and More)

by [Amrita Skye Blaine](#) (April 2025)



The Pine/Le Pin (Raoul Dufy, 1927)

## stand

little things hide  
the subtle gesture  
a downward glance  
shift away  
and I might  
miss it

read the present  
stay close in  
don't scuttle or slide  
every movement,  
each breath,  
informs,  
ignites awakening  
or grace

stand in the face  
of fear  
pay close attention  
don't be timid  
*so, we meet again*  
then walk on

### **the ordinary magic of days**

a maple leaf lets  
go, drifts  
crimson harvest  
turning  
up, around, under  
slow dancing  
its way to the ground

it touches  
shifts, finally rests  
a covering of  
autumn tones  
leisurely layering  
one by one

fingers beg me  
*pick it up take*  
*it home* but what is  
this ache to own?  
leaning on a tree  
waiting, watching, two  
more leaves sail  
twist, land,  
relaxing my fingers  
I leave it  
alone  
stroll toward home

## **moist**

scent rises from  
wet ground I draw  
it in, grateful for damp,  
for the earthy  
tang tethering me  
here to the planet  
simple joys  
crows converse high  
above, squirrels dart  
and chatter  
each day colors change  
and I, entranced,  
am willing to bear with  
for longer

## **when I forget**

that the whole world is holy,  
and tighten my circle of concern—  
this summer, no monarchs  
on the fuchsia, or goldfinch  
pecking sunflower, only  
half the songbirds I'm used to  
and gophers are ruling

I need to stroll note  
redwood frond shadows  
playing on the fence  
riotous bush sage's spill  
of soft purple velour  
cedar rosettes dropping  
on the patio glorious  
autumn everywhere  
and then I remember

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**Amrita Skye Blaine** develops themes of aging, disability, and spiritual awakening. Her poems have been accepted by *Soul-Lit*, *Braided Way Magazine*, *New English Review*, *The Penwood Review*, *One Art*, and many other literary journals. Her poetry collection *every riven thing* will be released by Finishing Line Press mid-2025. Her collection on aging, *strange grace—the ending season* is now [available](#) on Amazon.

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