

Monica Mody

Happiest in the 8-by-10

*for Jayasree, Goa*

She is a craggy  
feature of snippets some

pied some pilfered  
when snippets were fleshiest.

Some are hers, talented  
practice in saving

herself, remainder from marriage.

Her practice deepens every year  
she returns home

aslant the grand cant  
of her brothers

/their offspring  
/their plans.

A trunk in the balcony provides

storage or nest  
or find her in a kitchen.

Thirty seven days  
dishing thirty seven a day

she fed me from her plank and pound.  
A scrap, a snippet flared

candent

out of her trunk in her hand  
in my hand

— it was not an offering really  
and the showing

was a question that housed  
twelve years' must –

a question seeking hers to  
grow.